水上悟志

闇がなんぞや知るのか、なんぞ闇しを引き寄せるのか…
どうもにせよこれぼがせにハッキリしている。
おれは現金なおれぼがせを生む！

ちょっと思い子ちゃん病の病院と闇に行ってきます。
帰ってこなかったら大阪駅で星の原に立ってると思ってください。
あと骨拾ってくれる人募集中。
骨拾いの恩人も、人骨をボにするお人が望ましい。

bigbody

散人左道
さんじんさどう
水上悟志
少年画報社
COMICS

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●主役は月王学の名を借りた胡散臭い仙人・フプキは、弟子のようでもあり師匠のようでもある、師に言われ、今、少女に取り憑いている悪霊(怨力の塊)とかけひし、退治をするために、しかし、そんなフプキに最悪メガネの月女が絡み、フプキの前に最強の敵が……!?
●OURS新人漫画賞最高の期待の・水上悟志の初連載作品、全2号にて堂々完結!

水上悟志 PRESENTS

「散人左道」1
●放浪の仙人フプキの荒唐活劇!!
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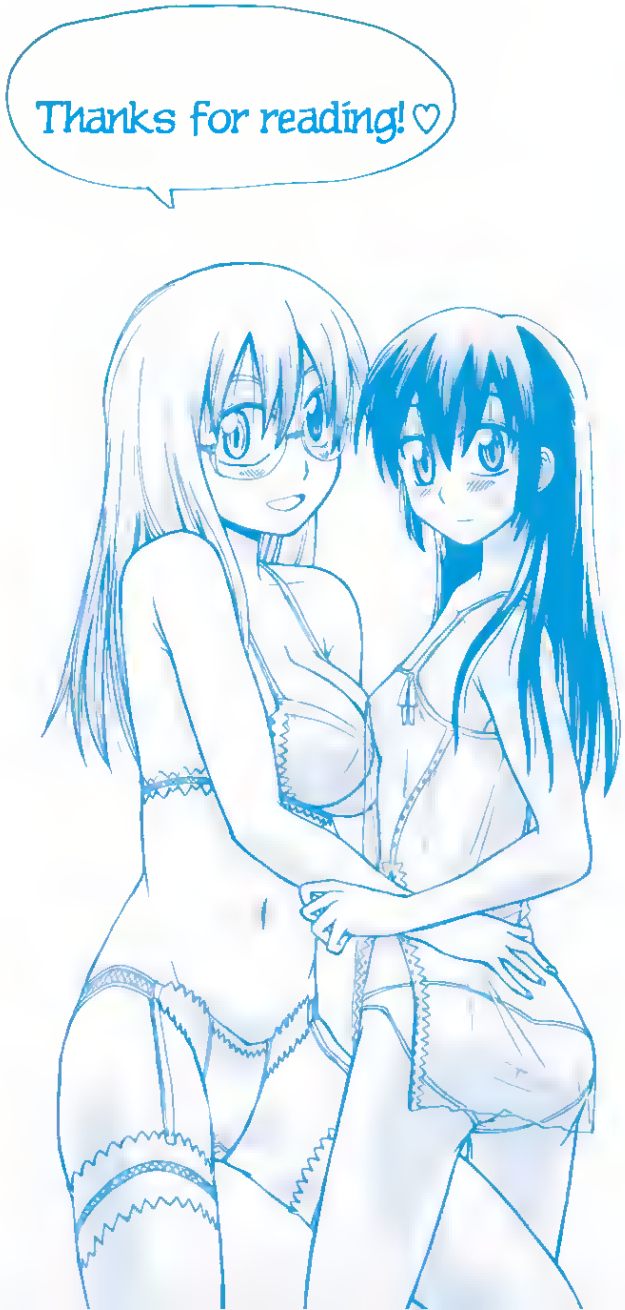

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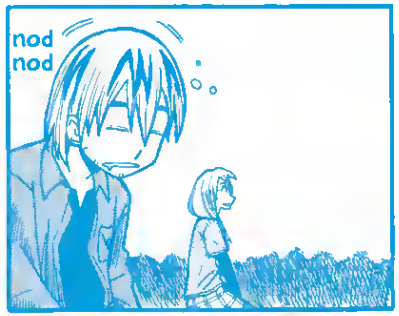

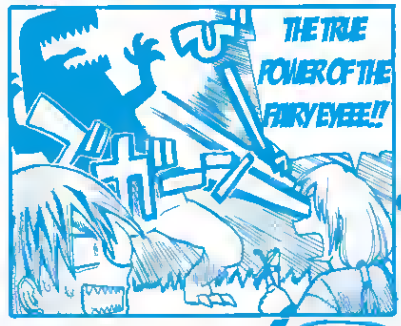

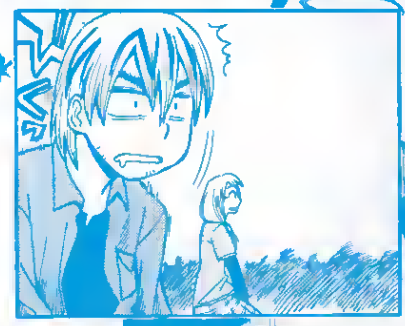

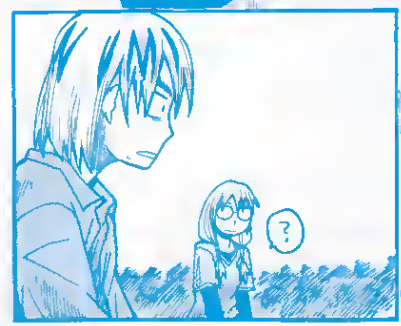

YOUNG KING
COMICS

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YOUNG KING COMICS

散人左道

サンジンサドウ

SANJIN SADOU

二

ニ

VOL. 2

水上悟志

ミズカミサトシ

MIZUKAMI SATOSHI

フブキ(♀)
◐左道黒月真君の名を継いだ仙人。
霊穴めぐりをしながら修行中の身。
酒好き，置き物道楽でちとせこい。

散人左道

あらすじ

●左道黒月真君の名を継いだフブキは、銀髪黒眉毛が特徴の、ちょっぴり胡散臭いさすらいの仙人。まだまだ修行中の身で、霊穴めぐりの途中、師・法鉄の言伝で様々な寄り道をしながら旅をしていた。式神や霊力を駆使して妖怪・精霊・化け物などの「隣人」、特に人に仇なす「障り」を退治し、人を救う事で収入を得て旅を続けるフブキ。そんな中、「妖精眼」を持つ少女・よると出会う。フブキの化け物退治の様子を見ていた彼女は、いきなり弟子入りを志願。彼女は自分の力を狙う「隣人」たちへの対処法や、自分の霊力制御法を学びたいらしい。彼女の能力で危機を脱したフブキはやむなく彼女を弟子にするのだった。
●ある時、二人はヒバチという同業者と戦う事に。先代の左道黒月真君に破れ、拝み屋を廃業した石川尽正の弟子だというこの少年。帥匠の仇討ちにだと云われるが、

よる(♀)
◐妖精眼を持つ。モノの「流れ」を視る。姉と別れ，力の制御法を学ぶ為フブキの弟子に。現実的でお金好き。

ヒバチ(♂)

▶先代の左道に倒された石川尽正の弟子。師の仇を取るが敗れる。正るる為フブキに挑戦義感が強い少年。

フブキはまともに取り合わず逃げまくり、「契約の森」に誘い込んで捕らえた後に、なんとか誤解を解くのだった。

●さて、居酒屋に居座る妖怪を二人でなんとか退治したり、よるが再会したヒバチと「障り」退治をするも、結局二人ともフブキに助けられ(しかもよるに見直されたり)等の事があったりしつつ、その後、フブキは以前から探していた少女・雲井いろりと出会う。

●いろりは、黒布を身にまとっていた。その布はかつて師・法鉄によって奪われたフブキの霊力の塊であった。自信過剰だった頃のフブキは師を越えようとして精霊輪廻の秘術を使い、人の身を捨てて「隣人」になろうとしたのだが失敗。半端に精霊化した霊力を、フブキの影から取り出したのが法鉄なのだった。霊力の大半を奪われたフブキはその後、霊穴めぐりをして修行。すっかり人間が丸くなる。再びフブキを主にと考えていた黒布だが、その気が無いと判ると雲井いろりを真の主とせんため、フブキを亡き者にしようとする。間一髪よるが介入。黒布はいろりとともに去る。

●過去の清算をしなければと考えたフブキは、故郷の山に帰る。天封洞と呼ばれるそこには、師・法鉄のそのまた師匠、孫視が住んでいた。斉天大聖が眷族にして、道術を極めし仙猴だというその姿は、一見猿に似ており、フブキ自身も猿爺と呼んでいた。かつて二人が退治した妖怪、四海封酔禅(ペン太)と共に暮らしているそこで、黒布の行方を知るだろう法鉄の手がかりを探るフブキ。そしてよるを妖精眼に詳しく、教え上手な猿爺にまかせ、一人また旅に出るのだった。

●いろりの行方を探す黒服黒メガネの男に事後報告をするフブキ。黒布排除の役目を負い、必要経費を都合つけてもらうが、この黒メガネは何故かフブキが法鉄の弟子である事を知っていた。同じく黒服黒メガネな女に妖怪をけしかけさせ、フブキを試す。なんなく退けたフブキに「黒布に干渉できるのは彼だけ」と意味深な会話をするこの二人組の本意とは？　第2巻完結編いよいよ登場！

雲井いろり(♀)&黒布(?)

▶フブキが以前から探していた少女。いいとこのお嬢らしく，黒服が依頼主。実はフブキの霊力の塊である黒布の主となっていた。

散人左道

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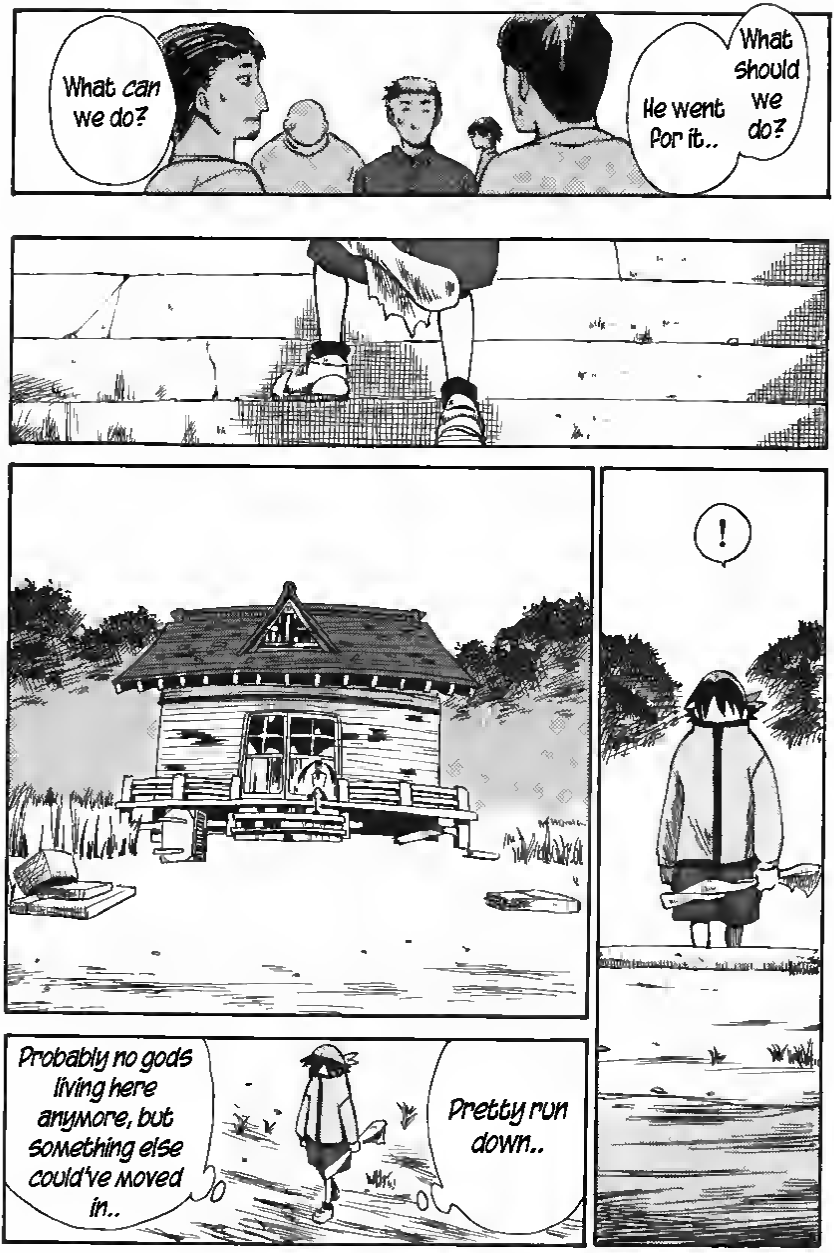
Chapter 11

Hibachi and Irori (Part 1)

Are you with Master Ishikawa? Is he here?
Son?
Why'd they send some kid?
What's going on here?
Master is well, but he's sent me in his stead today. No need to worry.
I'm Master Ishikawa's disciple and successor. Call me Hibachi.
We don't have time for games, young man.
Where's Ishikawa?
Try calling again
Did you talk to him?
Are they keeping kids out for some reason..?

I'll be fine.
I'm sorry, but I think you'd better wait for backup.
Hibachi, right?
It's not safe for..
Hush, Takeshi!
You gotta save my brother! Please!!
It got him!
I'll bring him back safe and sound.
Don't worry.
KEEP OUT
Don't..
Hey!
!


What can we do?
He went for it..
What should we do?
!
Probably no gods living here anymore, but something else could've moved in..
Pretty run down..

...
What the-?!
Hey, kid!
It's dangerous around here!
You'd better..
You're a kid too, though, aren't you?
Er'k!
I'm fine! I'm here to perform the exorcism!
The what now?
There's some monster snatching kids
It's been hanging around here
Mm hmm?

AUGH
No, no no!!
That bad? Maybe you'd better get out of here.
You'll be in big trouble!
It's big and mean and scary!!
No, not "hmm!!"
Snxx..
Hee.. Heh.
twitch
You don't get it!
Look, just..
How is that not clear?!
Okay, listen..
だん
だん
!?
Ah ha ha ha ha ha!!
Oh my god,
I'm sorry, but.. You totally flipped out!
HEE-HEE..

None of the practitioners who went up there could stop this thing
But we can't reach him..
We need Master Ishi-gami!
Then that kid is gonna be done for before long..
ざわ
ざわ
……
You ran away?
Yeah. So even if I leave now, there's no where to go.

Fun? Fun?!
Or do you get your kicks making your folks worry? Must be fun.
So what? Just go on back.
My stupid dad doesn't even care I'M gone!!
How dare you! What do you know, huh?!
She ran away too, and left me with Dad.
How about your mom?
What exactly is so bad about that?
Well, as long as she's still alive, you can still see her again sometime. And you can always make up with your dad.

So I got taken in by someone else who took care of me.
Mine died when I was real young.
You don't know a thing about-
So what?
.....
He was like my teacher too, but he cared about me like a dad would even if I wasn't his.
As long as he's your dad, then he'll worry about you, because that's just what they do.
..Ah!!
I'll go with you if it's too hard to..
Just buzz off!!
W-Who asked you any way!!

Well, well, What darling little children!
Why, I could just eat you up!
HYUK HYUK HYUK
!!
So you're the one!
Let those kids go!!
Or face my Spirit Mallet!!
So that's the big bad monster?
Can you beat it?
If you so desire,
Master.

That's far enough!!
Step away from the children, monster!!
We're not gonna take it any more!
Oh, crap!
You guys are really killing the mood..
STOMP
FWAMM

VOMM
SPIRIT MALLET ARTE:
ALL IN!!!

KRUMPH
DROP

CHEEER
foop
Oh ho..
Wow..
Kei!!
Hiro-shi!
Dagaan
...Screaming special Moves is its own reward!
Oh, no need..
refreshed
How can we possibly..
Thank you! Oh, thank you!!

Let's get going
Oh...
So let's go.
I'll help you back.
Okay.

GARLIC
RAMEN
Thanks for coming!
!
HOME OF THE GARLIC BOWL!
YIPE!
RRRR...
ROWF!
YUUUUUUUUUU!!
CHOMP
Blissfully Unaware
Does my breath smell?
Hey mutt, get a whiff of this!
PFAAH

It's been awhile so once more with the swimsuit! Yeehaw!
Chapter 12:
Hibachi and Irori, part 2!

Uh huh..
It's huge..
This is it?
雲井
雲井
.....
What's wrong?

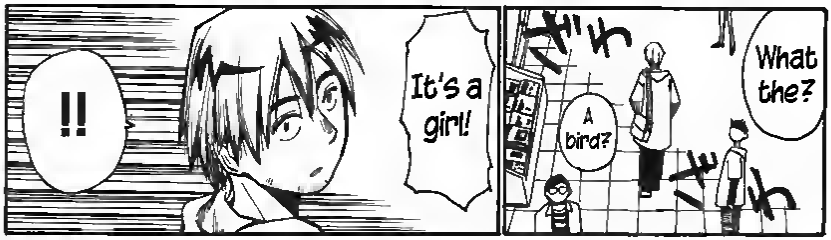
Well.. For starters, he'll probably be pretty ticked.
I did run away, after all..
I wonder.. What my dad'll say
He'll probably let me have it..
Yeah, I guess so..
!
KEEK
Daddy!
BRRM
Do you really need to ring the bell? It's your house, right?
Huh? Oh, I guess not..
Well, I'll just..

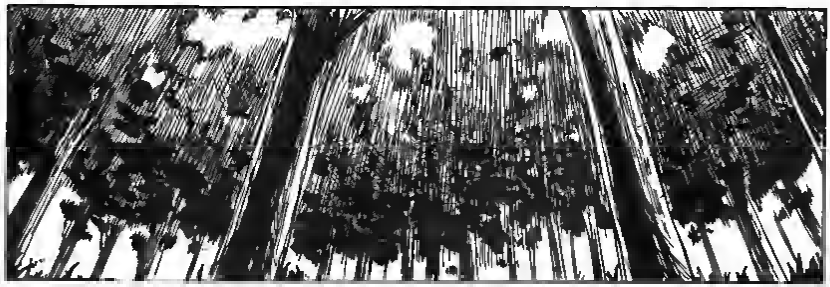
I.. I, UM..
Did you have an accident with a mistress?
No, sir.
Is that your girl?
Don't be daft.
I'm very sorry, but I'm quite busy. Excuse me..
It's fine.
Sir?
Wait! Dad
!?
Daddy, what's going on?
Huh?
I don't believe for a second that you've forgot your own daughter!!
Just one minute, there!!

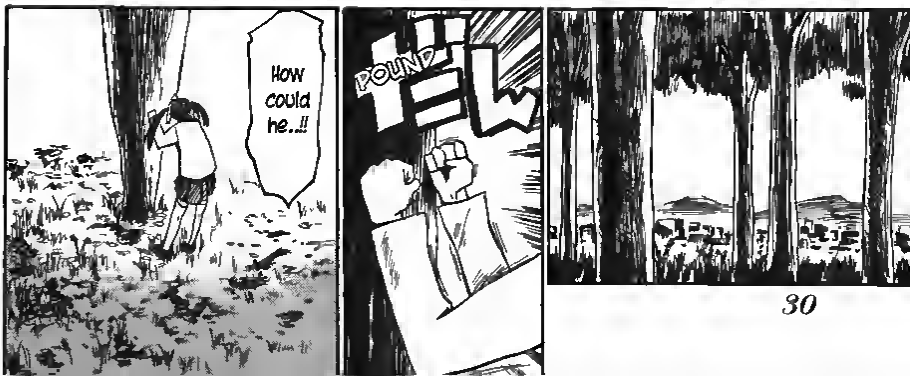
You must be mistaken. I don't have any children.

……
!
How can you ..!
Who knows?
What do you suppose those kids were up to?
……

Hang on!
Just calm down!
PWOM
Get away from me!
!!!
What the?!


!!
It's a girl!
What the?
A bird?




How could he..!!
POUND

.....
ザッ
!!
Hey there.
Must be fate.
Running into eachother like this.
Whoa, hey!
What's the matter?!

Hey!
Just wait!
No..!
What is it?!
Did you lose control of that thing?!
That's not it!
Now go away!
I can't do that!
This figure hosted a household spirit for decades,
Which means it can keep him safe and under control, too.
We need to seal him in the figure!
That's too much power for you to handle! It's dangerous!!
A—M—M!

Oop!
Kuro-gane?
!!
Don't tell me.. You named the thing?!
SADOOU!!
Help me.. Please..
Help me, Kuro-gane!
Just stop.. Leave me alone
I don't have any-thing left,
So please.. don't take this away too..
Why is this happen-ing to me..
What did I do wrong?

Ack
?!
Hoo
...
The
Fu..
Hibachi
?!
SADOU!!

Can you walk?
Yeah..
Then go.
Huh? But..
If you don't want to be here, go. I'll handle him.
Stop!
Hey! Listen!!

Get lost, you idiot! You have no idea what's happening here!!
!
Don't Move!
All I need to know is that you're the bad guy!!
Why'd you put that spell on her family, if you're supposed to be finding her for them?!
Now listen here, kid...
What?!
I should never have let you get away!!
Oh, don't even start,
You hack hexer!
What dawn thing are you on about?!
I did what now?

You're talking crazy, I'm telling you!
Now get outta the way, kid!!
Stop..
Calling me that!!
ち……!
Fine. I got some questions for you, too,
So let's play, kid.
You're going down this time.
Firing on all cylinders right out of the gate, huh?
Hmm.. His technique's not bad, and magic power is through the roof..
You got no imagination, even for a bullheaded brat.

I'M better than you, and I'M going to prove it!!
Take notes, kid, because you're about to get schooled!!

第十二話／完

Chapter 13
HIBACHI AND IRORI, PART 3

AARRR
此中烈火被
此中烈火被
此中烈火被
FWA
BOMM

BWOOF
BWIP
!
SCRT
POM
.....

.....
Ironi, where are we going?
We have no where to go, you said.
-We should go back and beat Fubuki.
And then.. We'll take care of your dad.
He refused to recognize us..
He wants to erase us! The only way to reclaim yourself.. is to do the same to him!

WE HAVE POWER FOR A REASON
WE CAN GET OUR REVENGE

Kurogane...

Nng.
ドン
ぼお
He's too good!!
I can't even land a hit on him..!!
It's like..
It's like I'm getting trained by a Master!!!
!!!

You moronic midget
Enjoy your new playmate,
That illusion peeds off your impression of me.. The stronger you think I am, the stronger it seems. The way thinkgs are going, he must not be as cocksure as he seems!
Even I'm not that good..
Kid thinks with his fists too much.
He won't see through this one any time soon!
Just as I suspected, of course.
だが 会 状況を 受 納 てしまう
!

Irori! Listen, I'm not here to..
..Wuh- oh.
Dammit! The thing's taken her over!

FOM
Wh-
upf
NNB!

gnf ...
clonk
SKFF
SKRAKK!
KRUNK
HA
AGH
GUH
HURF

Well,
Huh?! Really?
How can you be this weak?! It's sickening..
Tsk.
At least I get to do this.
I'M going to enjoy being free of you.. Once and for all!!
pant
hah
Damn it..

Here it com-es!
whiff
!
Huh?!
Wh..
.....
An illu-sion!!
I'm not hurt..
!
Where did he..?!
..Can't believe I fell for that!!
Of all the..

He can't have gone..
But what stopped it?
!!
You looked like..
What were you about to do?
Oh, you're still here.
Huh?
Stop!
Don't do it!
You can't just kill him!!
Oh, I just couldn't decide: pop his skull, or tear out his heart?
What do you think?

Urg..
Butt out, kill-joy.
Could Sadou have been chasing that thing all along...?!
Strong...! And the way she's acting... Is this that shadow's fault?
I guess you're nothing special eith..
Wow, I thought you would be tougher than that.

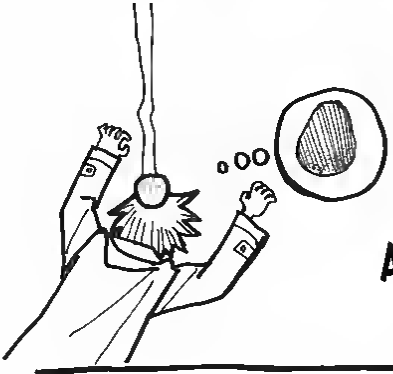
TOK
What?! What did he just..
Where did he even come from?!
I was looking right at him!
How did I miss him?!

Ah!
Wait!
!
IS THIS GUY ?!
WHO THE HELL
What do you want with her?!
Who are you!?
..
Speak.
It's best if you forget about this.
It does not concern you.
.....
!!

You put her down, right now!
All you people act like I can't handle myself!!
I have had it!!
That girl..
Is under my protec-tion!!!

If you can't back up your boasts, you'll land yourself in trouble one day.
Mind what you say.
Boy.
!
You are powerless. Do not forget it...
Why you -!
Aigh ...!
.....
I did run away, after all..
I wonder what my dad'll say

NNR
RRA
AAA
AAA
I bet you're right..
He'll be pretty mad, but..
beedle-deedle-bee-
deep
Hiya! It's Me.
Yeah, weeensy leetle prob-lem..
Hou-tetsu showed up.
Sure did.
So, what now?
第十三話／完

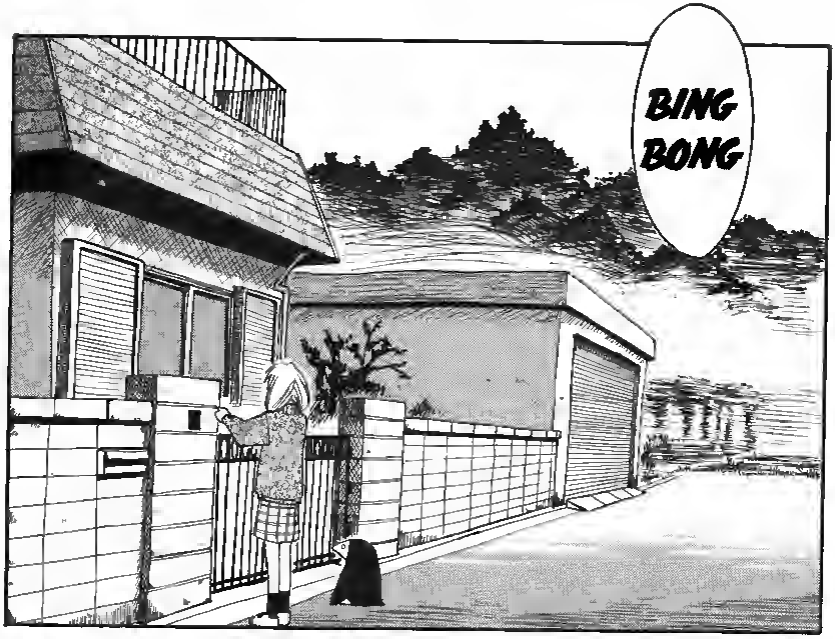


AVOCADO LUMP

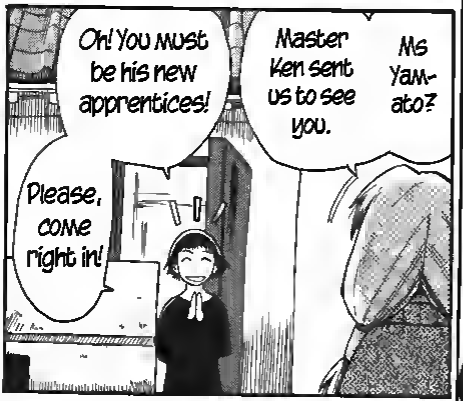
Looks tasty. but just a bump on the head. The real ones are sometimes called the butter of the forest. goes great with soy sauce. Sounds kind of like "lawyer" in Spanish.

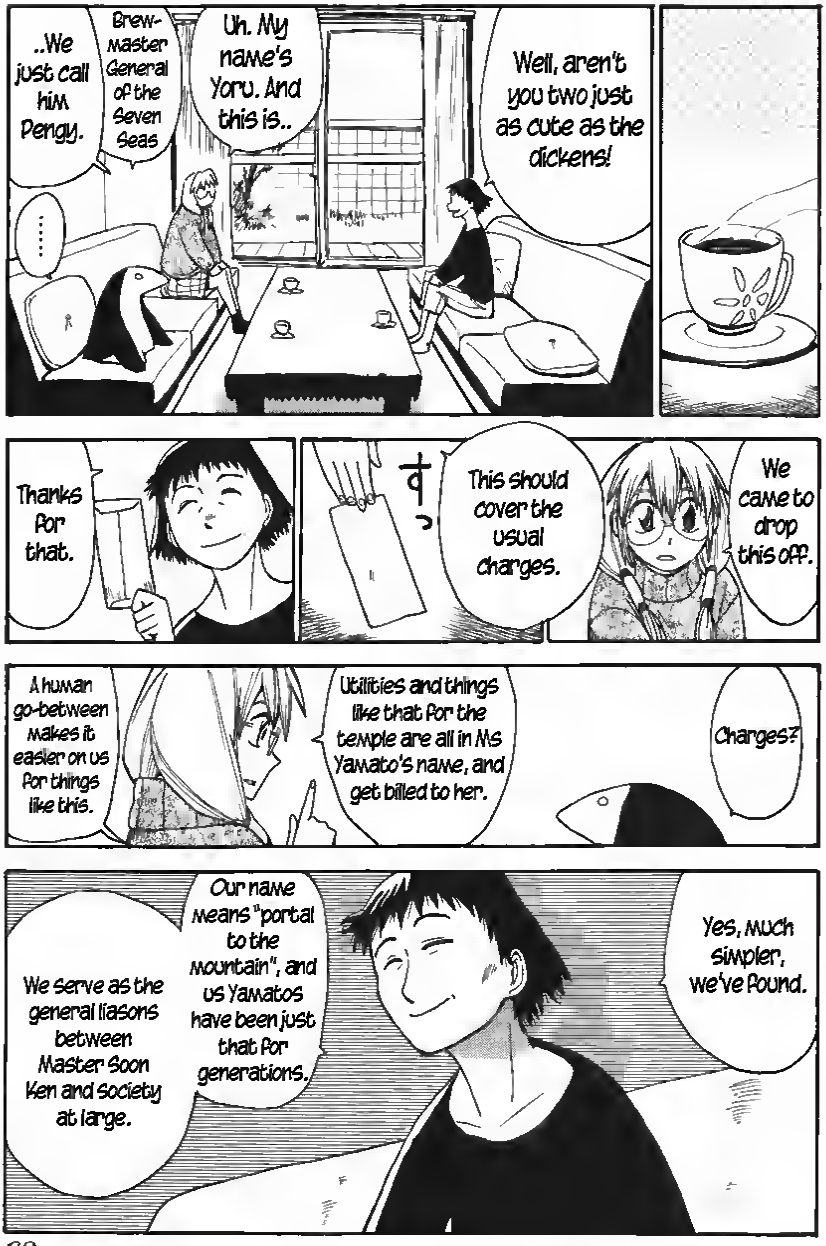
散人の左道
さんじんさとう

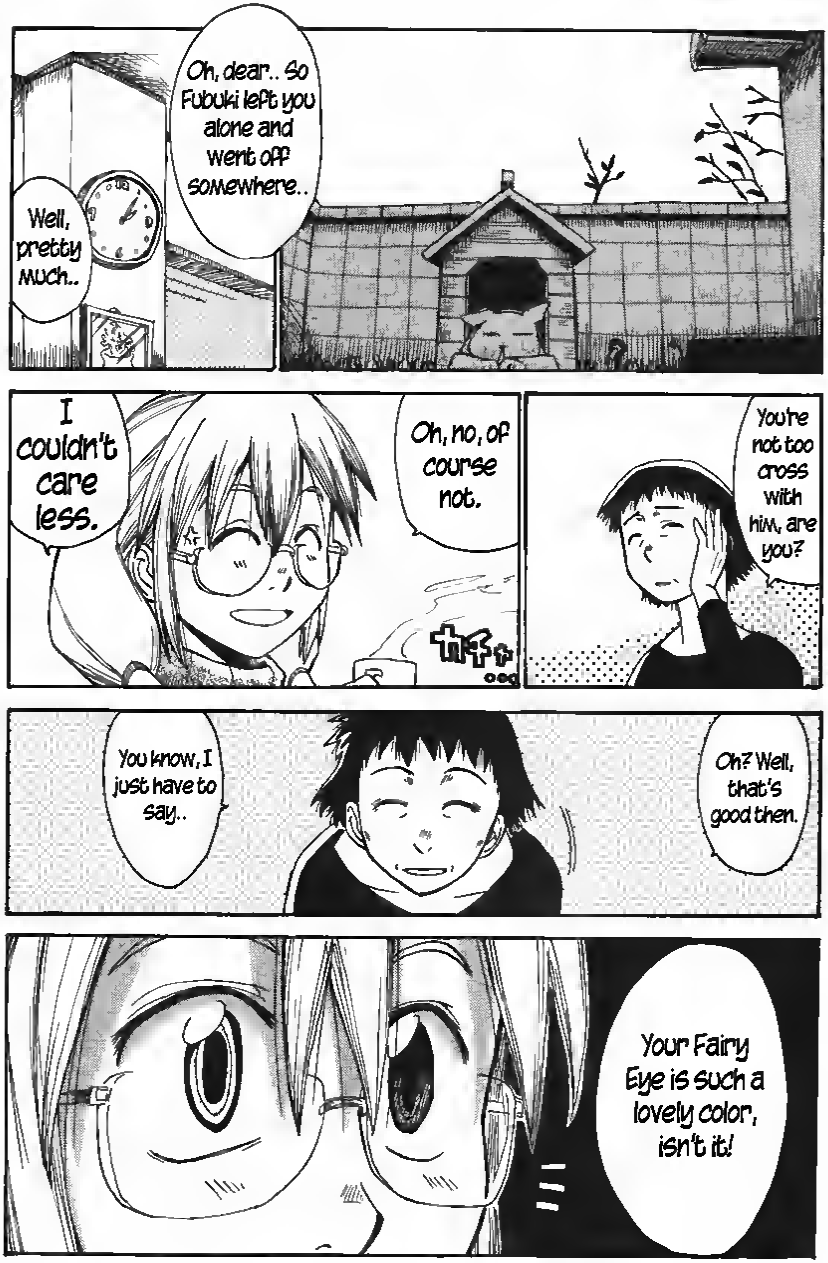
Chapter 14:
THE SPIRIT OF THE SANDAL

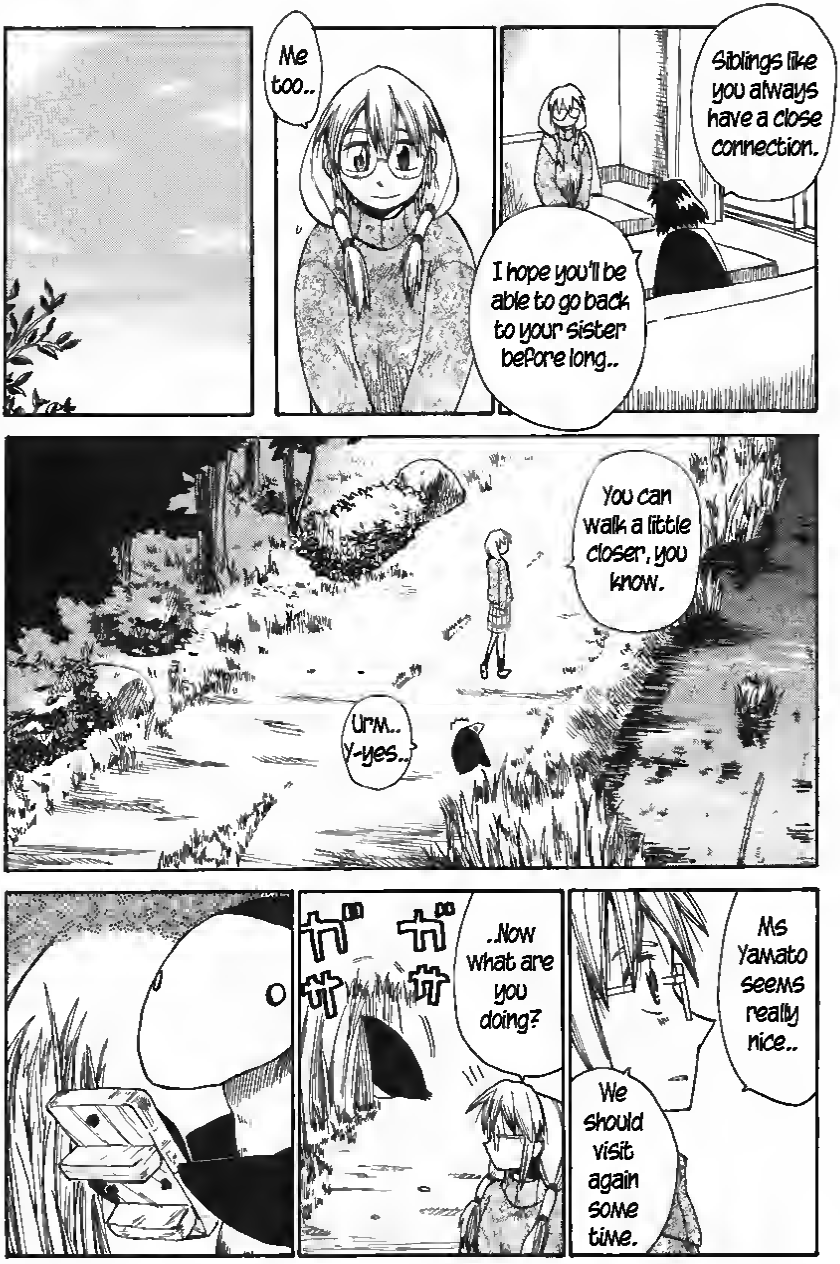

BING BONG

ガチャ
Who is it?


Oh! You must be his new apprentices!
Please, come right in!
Master Ken sent us to see you.
Ms Yamato?

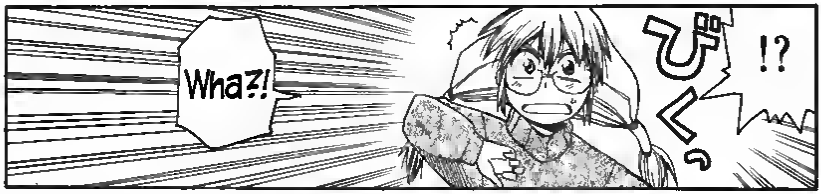

Well, aren't you two just as cute as the dickens!
Uh. My name's Yoru. And this is..
Brew-master General of the Seven Seas
..We just call him Pengy.
.....
We came to drop this off.
This should cover the usual charges.
Thanks for that.
Charges?
Utilities and things like that for the temple are all in Ms Yamato's name, and get billed to her.
A human go-between makes it easier on us for things like this.
Yes, much simpler, we've found.
Our name means "portal to the mountain", and us Yamatos have been just that for generations.
We serve as the general liasons between Master Soon Ken and society at large.

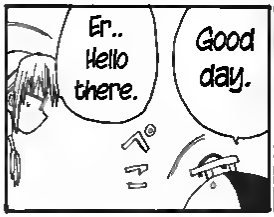

Oh, dear.. So Fubuki left you alone and went off somewhere..
Well, pretty much..
You're not too cross with him, are you?
Oh, no, of course not.
I couldn't care less.
You know, I just have to say..
Oh? Well, that's good then.
Your Fairy Eye is such a lovely color, isn't it!

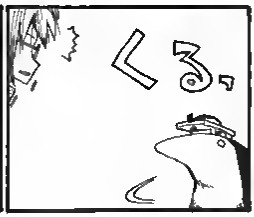

Me too..
Siblings like you always have a close connection.
I hope you'll be able to go back to your sister before long..
You can walk a little closer, you know.
Um.. y-yes..
..Now what are you doing?
Ms Yamato seems really nice..
We should visit again some time.

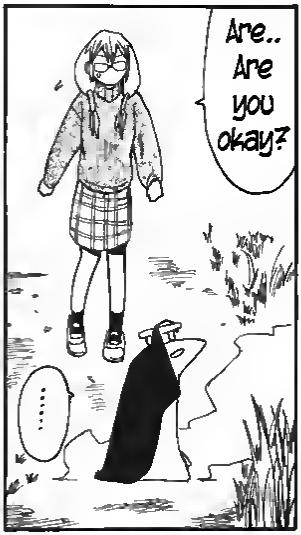
BZZARP

There's something.. It almost seemed to call me..
What do you need with an old geta sandal?

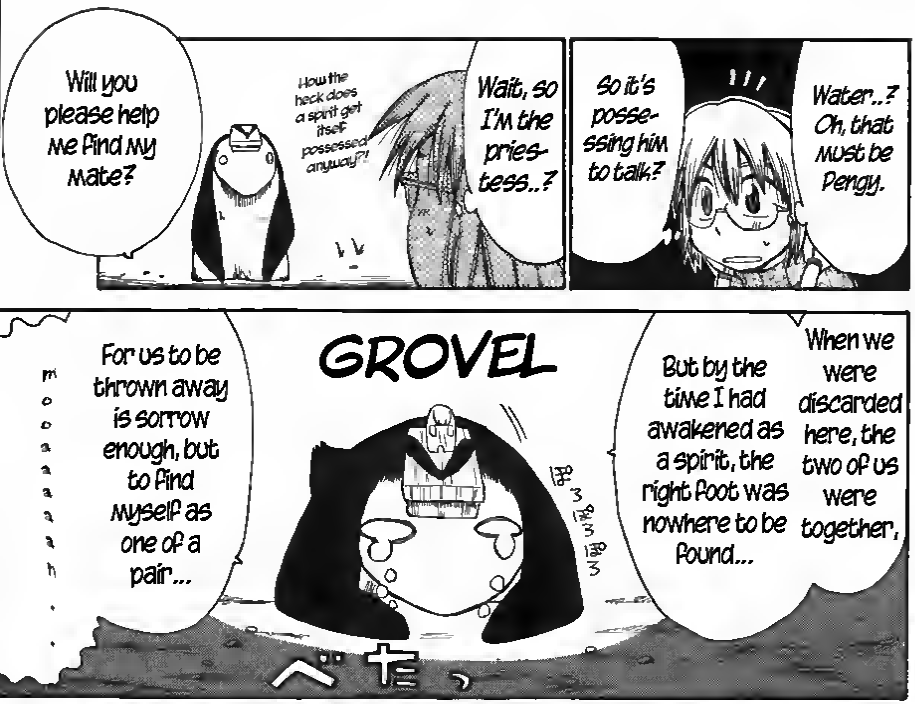

Wha?!
!?


Er.. Hello there.
Good day.

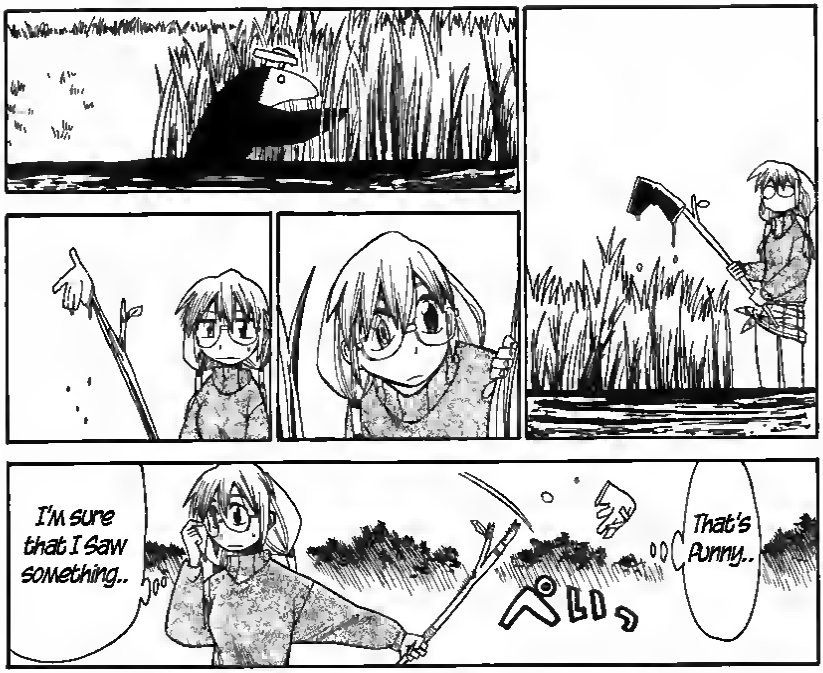


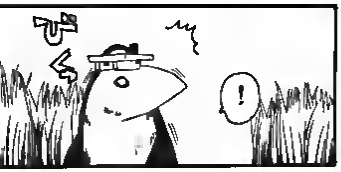

Are.. Are you okay?
.....

I've borrowed the use of this water spirit to ask a favor of you, Priestess.
I am the spirit attached to this geta.


Water..? Oh, that must be Pengy.
So it's possessing him to talk?
Wait, so I'm the priestess..?
How the heck does a spirit get itself possessed anyway?!
Will you please help me find my mate?
When we were discarded here, the two of us were together,
But by the time I had awakened as a spirit, the right foot was nowhere to be found...
GROVEL
For us to be thrown away is sorrow enough, but to find myself as one of a pair...
mooaaaaaah...
Okay, okay, don't cry!
We'll look for it, all right?
Oh, thank you!
But when we get it, you let Pengy go.
Very well
Ugggh, seriously?
siiigh

Pretty shallow, though.
Hoo! That's cold!
Keeeeen
I should just start looking around here..
Well, according to my foresight,

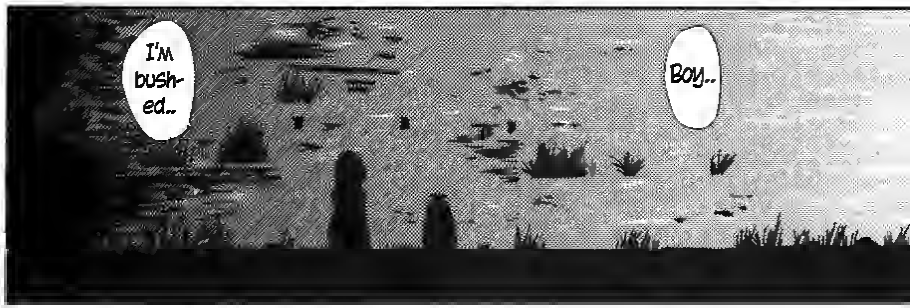

I'm sure that I saw something..
That's funny..
ペロっ

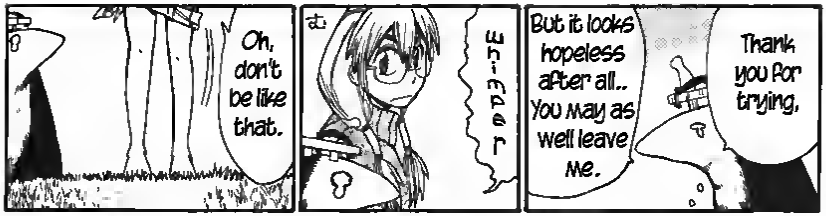

!

Are you hurt?
I'm okay..
But I'm ready for a little break.

Yack!!

Oop?!


I'm bushed..
Boy..


Oh, don't be like that.
む
エニグマって
But it looks hopeless after all.. You may as well leave me.
Thank you for trying,

I'll give the Magic eye another shot.
ばしゃ
ばしゃ
Come on, let's try again.
Ah..

You two need eachother, right? How can you just give up so easily!

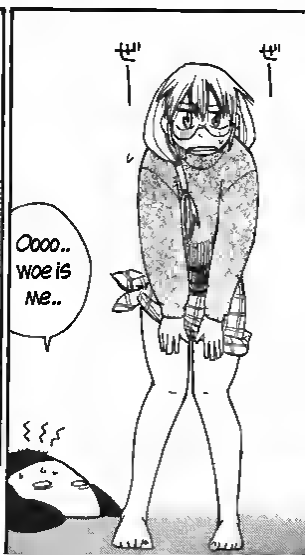
Oh, so that is you!
Ms Yamato!
Yoru?
I see... Something's about to happen?
What on earth are you doing?
Oh, uh, well..
There was this geta, see, and.. er..
Geta?
Hey!
Heel!!
!
Rowr!
EEK!!
.....

Yaah !!
Not the fur!
owiee
Yoru! Your shoes!

That's it! Follow that dog!

Whew! You're quick! Here's your shoes.
Oh!
Th-thank you..

..Actually, duh. It's her dog, after all.
Back at her house..


Oooo.. woe is me..

I don't know what drives you to hoard this junk you find..
クゥーン?
You fetch out that sandal right this instant!
And YOU!
WUF
Huh?
I don't suppose you were looking for this?
Covered in drool.. don't give those to me...
He finds all kind of old things like this..
He had the other one in his doghouse.
Sorry about all the fuss.
Here you go.

klak tok klak tok
Oh my god
That's ador-able
……!
Did they already fade away? They've been quiet..

.....
You two are really close, aren't you?

Master Soon Ken, what are you doing here?
Yo.
Oh!

Say, I recognize those.
Hmm?
Every-thing all right?
Thought I'd come see what was holding you two up this late.
Fubuki lost them when he got sloshed and fell in the pond last year.

Mad?
Are you still mad at him?
.....
Ha!
It might not seem so, but try to remember he had your interests at heart.
Fubuki, Lass.
But I still get kind of lonely
I like living with Master Soon Ken, and Pengy too.. It's nice here.

I want to see Master Fubuki.. and my sister, again.
今な I wonder what they're doing now? (U) ?

Urrr..
ズキズキ
God, what a head-ache..
I just came for the shade, after that I don't need nothin' to do with her.
Like I told ya,
So it really wasn't you who made her dad forget?
Here, take a look at this.
Little punk-ass..
Hm. Well, sorry. I guess.

This is the one who took her. Real old guy.
Les- see.
You old bas- tard.
So.. You finally made your move,
The Master-Of-Long-Roads -Under- Waning- Moons who beat your teacher
Then.. That means..!!
Your kidnapper here goes by Houtetsu. He used to be my teacher.
You know him?!

"FUBUKI AND HOUTETSU'S (BEFORE HE GAVE IT UP) OFFICIAL TITLE, FORMERLY UNTRANSLATED AS "SADOU KOKUGETSU SHINKUN" (...AND I DON'T BLAME 'EM!) -CONTINUITY CARL

He and I should talk.
Take me to your teacher.. Ishikawa Jinsei.
!
Anyway, I need you to do something for me
Like what?
.....!!
He should be able to point us in the right direction.
At the least,
If anyone would know what the old man's up to, it's him.
So, how about it?
Find the old man, find Irori Kumoi.

Geta-Pengy

His footwear is kind of heavy and akward, so he gets tuckered out before long.

散人の左道

さんじんさどう

第十五話

ブロロロ
We walk from here.
C'mon.
Jinsei Ishikawa.. I've never met the guy, wonder if I should be worried...
seeing as he's responsible for this little wanker
I'm back.
ガラ
He must be watching TV,
Come on in.
ガシャン

*Mobile Suit Gundam ("Zieg Zeon!!")

Chapter 15
At Home With The Ishikawas

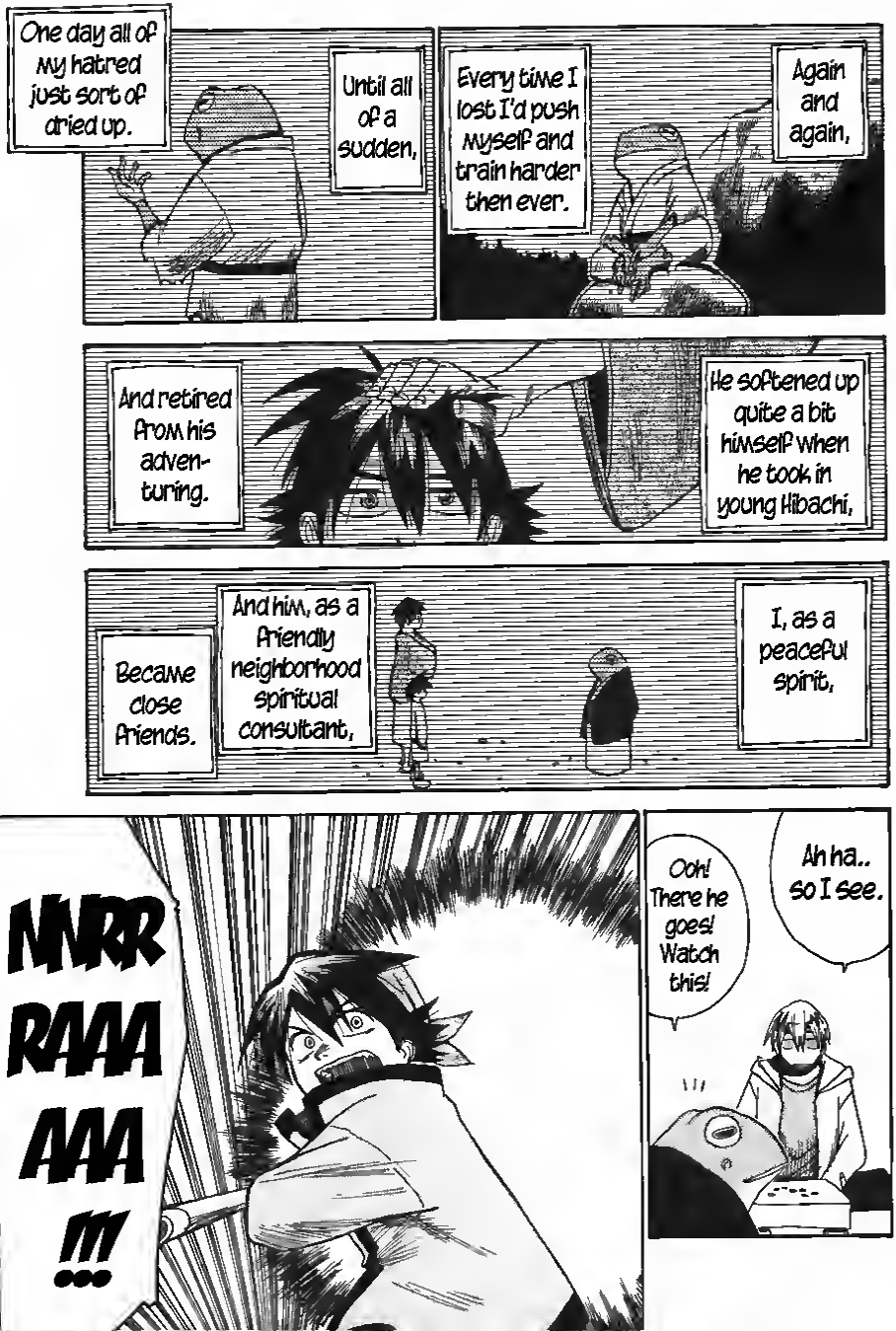
I was once defeated by Jinsei Ishikawa
Well, I'll tell you.
my bad
Who the hell are you?!!
Of course he's not!!
ぼい ぼい
Now, just who are you, hmm?
And got out some tea and crackers.
He wasn't here, though! So I let myself in,
だん
And a right solid drubbing it was, too! So I'm back today to take my revenge.
Drop the snacks, you free-loading lump!!
ドドドドドド
Eh?
Hey! Whoa! Geddoff!!!
I am the succ-essor to Master Ishi-kawa!!
And if you want him you gotta go through Me first!!!
はあ はあ

SPLAT
And stay out!!
Not home, eh.
Well, guess we'll just have to wait.
I was invited, do I get tea?
Shut up!
Jinsei Ishikawa! Remember us? We swore eternal vengeance!
Halloo in there!!

DING DONG
ピンポーン
Is this normal around here?
Hm..
Coming!
DING-DONG!
Well, he's busy with his guests, I' guess I'll get the door
I was hoping Ishikawa would be available?
Oh? And who's this?
Cripes, not another one!!
Sorry, he's out at the moment,
But if you're here about vengeace, head on back, we've got the next best thing..
HI YA AA A
OO-ERG !!

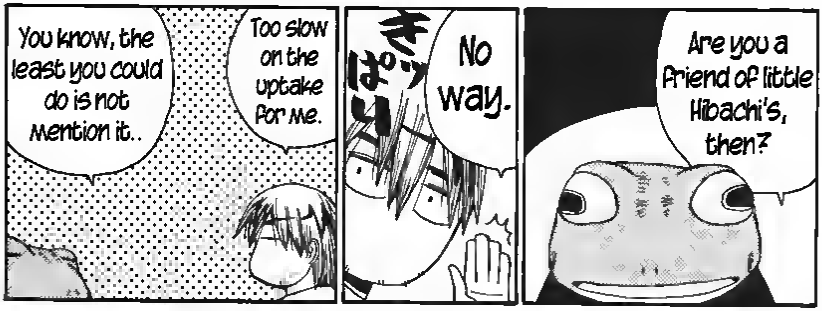
What's your game? Chess? Shogi? Playstation?
How'd you like to keep me company till he comes back?
Well, uh..
I'm here for a friendly visit.
Not at all!
Who, me?
I'm getting less and less of a clear picture of this guy..
We could try another game..
Want another round?
How'd you do that?!
2P WIN !!
Urk!
Sorry, that's game.
That's how we first met.
We had kind of an exorcist-evil spirit thing going.
Actually, I was wondering.. Where do you know Master Ishikawa from?

But he was some-thing.. Toughest guy I ever met.
I used to be a real nasty character, you see.
At the time, he had beat me black and blue.
But I just couldn't stand being beaten and swore I'd be back to destroy him.
I barely made it out of there alive,
You need more practice.
I still lost.
Probably a lot like those fellows out there.


One day all of my hatred just sort of dried up.
Until all of a sudden,
Every time I lost I'd push myself and train harder then ever.
Again and again,
And retired from his adventuring.
He softened up quite a bit himself when he took in young Hibachi,
Became close friends.
And him, as a friendly neighborhood spiritual consultant,
I, as a peaceful spirit,
NNRR RAAA AAA !!!
Ooh! There he goes! Watch this!
Ah ha.. so I see.

ALL IN!!

So,
He does a super move?!
Holy crap!


You know, the least you could do is not mention it..
Too slow on the uptake for me.
きっぱり
No way.
Are you a friend of little Hibachi's, then?

Surely he brought you here so you two could put together some sort of plan?
You don't say.
He might not look it now, but he's always been a careful and cautious lad.
.....
Those two gave you some trouble, eh?
Bite me.
Oh, hi. Welcome.
Ho there, tadpole.
Whew..
ACK!!
Hey! Ishigawa!! Get out here, damn you!!
Not again...
Ugh.

ピヴ ピヴ ピヴ

Appre-
ciate it.
I'll just take a quick peek.
?
Whoa
!?

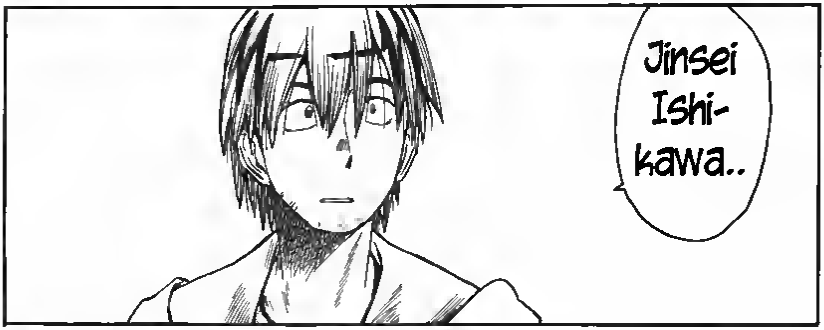
Wanna fight, do yaz?!
They'll take you apart!
You moron!
Whatever. I don't care! I've got this!!
that's like, a lot
Okay, come on. This is crazy, right?
Oh for fuck's sake!
COME! GET! SOOOOOME!!!!
Ah!
Hm?
Well, well.. What's all the ruckus?

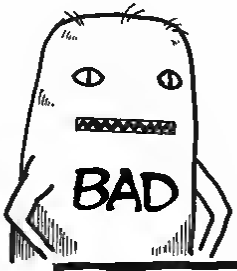
どよっ!
あ?!
お前!
あ
Huh?
What's going on in the back there?
What the?

Uh..
What?!
ドン
Holy crap..
What just happened?!
Master!!
!
So that's him?

Who's your friend?
Oh?
カラーン
コロン

Hibachi! Welcome back.


Jinsei Ishi-kawa..



EVIL SPIRIT A

(REAL NAME: "ANKOKUAKUJYUUKOU" MEANING: "CHEERFULLY VILE BEAST OF DEEPEST DARKNESS")

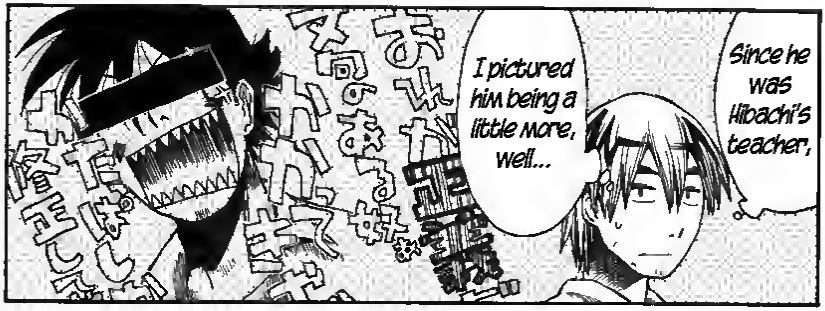
Has the supernatural ability to excel at games with balls. Beaten up by Seiji Ishikawa while haunting a game field. Planned on challenging him to a game of hoops for revenge. but Hibachi beat him up instead. Fond of crackers.

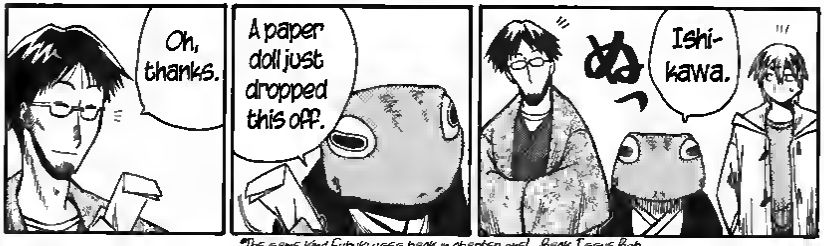
散人左道

さんじんさとう

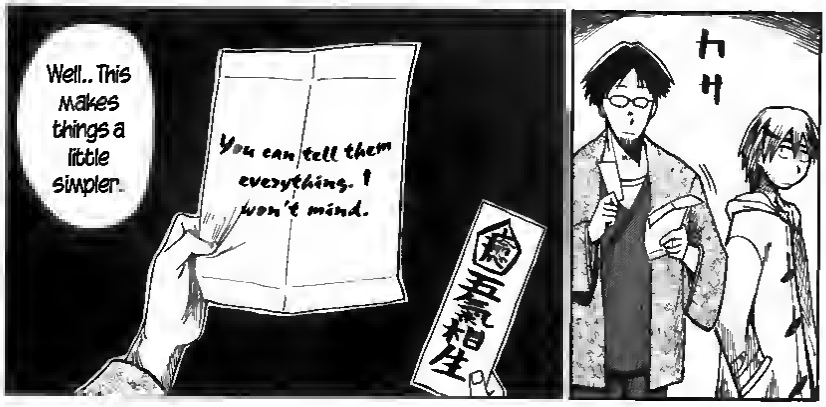
第十六話

ボロ
Don't think you've won, Ishikawa!!
You haven't seen the last of us!!!
So.. This guy's a pretty big deal, eh..
Sure thing! Come back anytime!





"The same kind Futuki uses back in chapter one! -Back Issue Bob

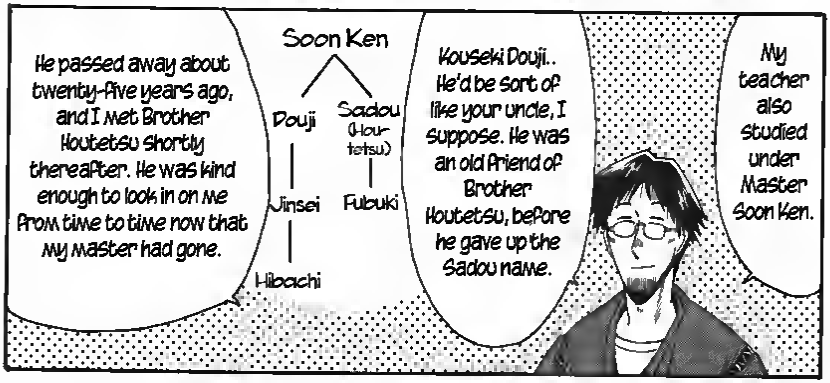


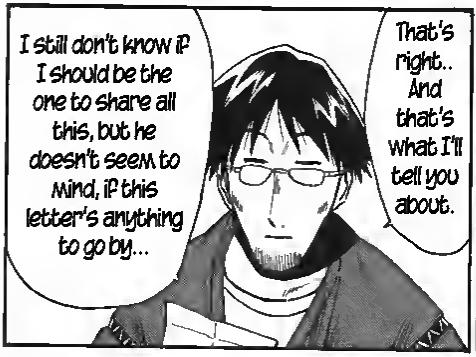
CHAPTER 16: FAIRY EYE

Oh, firstly, thanks for your help today, Fubuki..
I entertain a lot of company, and it can get to be a handful, so I appreciate you jumping in.
Well, I didn't really..
Wait, have we met?

Bro-ther?

No, but I've heard a lot about you.
You already knew I had history with Brother Houtetsu, didn't you?


He passed away about twenty-five years ago, and I met Brother Houtetsu shortly thereafter. He was kind enough to look in on me from time to time now that my master had gone.
Soon Ken
Douji
Sadou (Houtetsu)
Jinsei
Fubuki
Hibachi
Kouseki Douji.. He'd be sort of like your uncle, I suppose. He was an old friend of Brother Houtetsu, before he gave up the Sadou name.
My teacher also studied under Master Soon Ken.


I still don't know if I should be the one to share all this, but he doesn't seem to mind, if this letter's anything to go by...
That's right.. And that's what I'll tell you about.

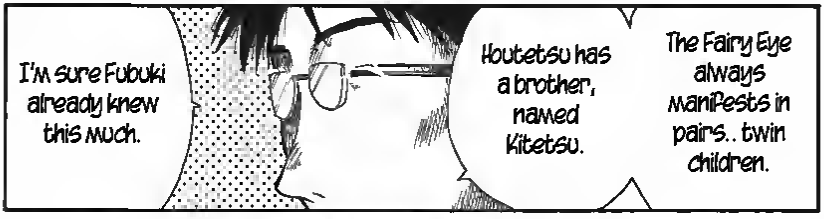
Is that right... But you two still ended up fighting?

But first..
Hibachi, have you gotten yourself wrapped up in this mess, too?
.. Yeah.
There's a little girl I have to save.
A girl.. That makes sense, she must be the one..
Alright. Listen carefully, then, and I'll tell you what I know.
And about what happened that night.

I can't allow you to go through with this.
I'm afraid I can't do that.
This has to be done.
Stand aside, Jinsei.
You're not thinking clearly. You need to reconsider.
This is my problem, and I'm going to solve it.
.....
Either I go, or I go through you.
.....

妖怪
...Not while he had the Fairy Eye.
と
"I had to try to stop him somehow, even though I knew I couldn't hope to win..."
ちからをいのは
ましたが

Fairy Eyez?!
.....


I'm sure Fubuki already knew this much.
Houtetsu has a brother, named Kitetsu.
The Fairy Eye always manifests in pairs.. twin children.

Kitetsu had been looking for someone special, with the natural capacity to contain an enourmous amount of spirit energy.
.....

I had heard Houtetsu found the one Kitetsu would be looking for, a girl about Hibachi's age.. I assume that's the one you're hoping to save.
I don't know what his plans were once he found this person, but Brother Houtetsu only said that it was something that could never be allowed to pass.

Brother Houtetsu knew Kitetsu would come for the girl.
So, he steeled himself to confront Kitetsu before it came to that.
I had to try and stop him.
Because he would never be able to defeat his brother if they should come into conflict... And vice versa, of course.
Another property of the Eyes:
Two twins share one power, and share one life, one destiny.
Which means they share one death. Should one die, the other will follow.
You already know why this is a bad idea.
Tch.
.....

Wait! I have it! Use the Shadow!
.....
She'll be safe from your brother...
If we let the shadow possess the girl, she'll be under our influence, and can protect herself at the same time!!
Since the only one who can contain it
Will be your disciple.. Fubuki!

So you knew.
Only Sadou can.. What's that mean?
I should apologize.. It's my fault you're involved in this at all.
It was a wild idea, but I was desperate.
Yes.. Brother Houtetsu had told me of it before.
I'll get to take care of the thing myself, rather than having it done behind my back.
I'm a little glad, matter of fact.
Naw, don't mind it.
I just thought..
It's a good thing I came.
At any rate, this tells me why the old man made an appearence, and most likely where he'll take Irori..

I can still remember your face, Brother.
The day you first brought him..
I was sure we could trust you, Fubuki.. That you'd be up to the task, when the time came.
I'll do anything.. Give everything I have. For this boy.
There he is, Jinsei. Just look at him. My successor.
Surely, he's capable enough..
You said you'd give him all you had.. Why not trust him with your fate?

Yes.. Perhaps that would be fitting..
……
……ッ!?
Hah!!
Now he needs my help; he comes crawling back?
Maiybe I'll make him beg..
...And show him a little of the love he showed me!

Well, if you don't mind..
Fubuki, if you have the time, why don't you spend the night here?
Let's get started on dinner.
Now then,
Don't worry about it.
Naw,
We have to get after him right away!
Wait a second!
The old man'll keep, and Kumoi's fine for now. She'll be in a safe place, so no rush.
?

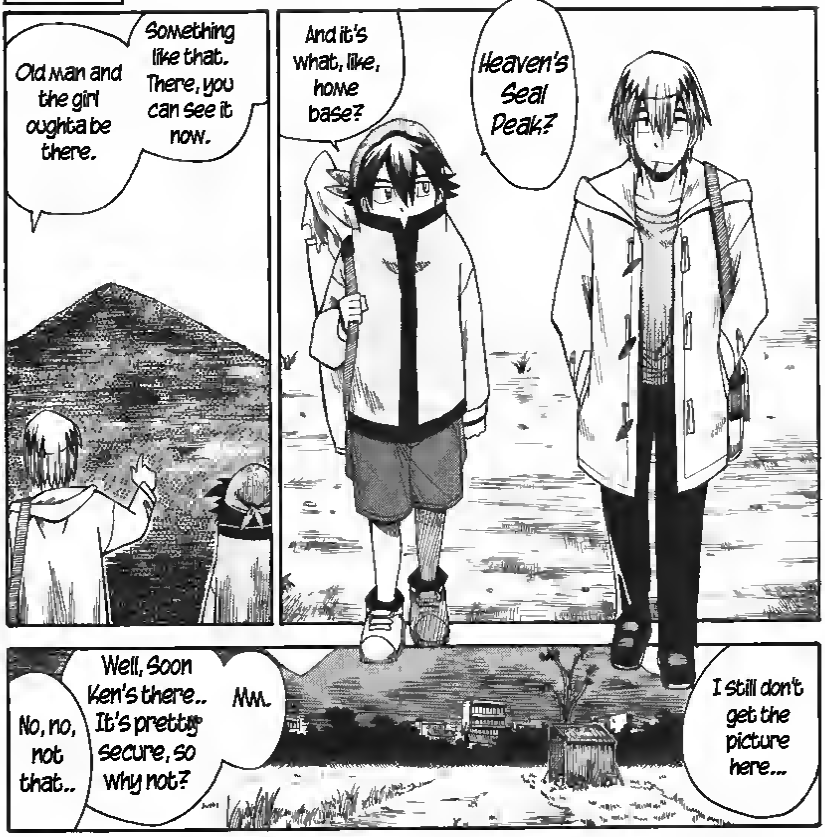
Why am I here?
I'm sure you're capable of going to meet our new guests yourself..
It gets so creepy out here at night..
Well..
You can be my body-guard.
And who's going to protect me?
Don't you think I'm nervous out here too? Alone in the dark, in the middle of nowhere.. with you.
You might be r...
Look.
Could that be them?

JINSEI ISHIKAWA

Teaches middle school for a cover while running his spiritualist service. Hiding his "supplementary income" from the taxman doesn't exactly make him an exemplary public employee. Was a pretty rough-and-tumble sort as a young man.

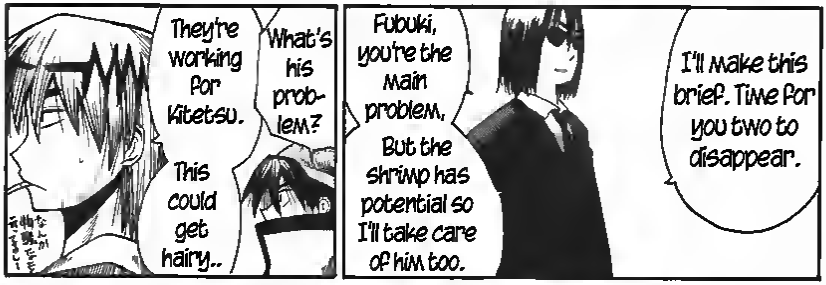
散人の左道

さんじんさとう


Heaven's Seal Peak?
And it's what, like, home base?
Something like that. There, you can see it now.
Old man and the girl oughta be there.
I still don't get the picture here...
Mm.
Well, Soon Ken's there.. It's pretty secure, so why not?
No, no, not that..
Why did Houtetsu make his move? Why now?
Oh.. that. Right.
Probably because it's got so anyone could exorcise her shadow, not just me.
What's the deal with you and that thing?
Eh?
I'll tell you about it lat..

Hiiiya, Fubuki! How you been?
I was hoping we might run into you here.
Well, well.. If it isn't Houtetsu's drifter and little Irori's knight in shining armor.

!!


I'll make this brief. Time for you two to disappear.
Fubuki, you're the main problem, But the shrimp has potential so I'll take care of him too.
What's his problem?
They're working for Kitetsu. This could get hairy..

Looks like you figured us out after all.
Except for one little detail.
I don't work for Kitetsu...

I am Kitetsu.
Heh, not that I go by that name anymore..
Chapter 17: Mugen The Unbound

That's the Fairy Eye!!
!!
Aw, shit.
But.. he's got the Eye..
No way a guy this young could be the right one!
Hang on, he must be bluf-fing!
Enra?!
Dodger, dodger.
You just relax.
Enra, I'll handle this.
I'm not going anywhere!!
We're getting out of here!!
Hibachi, these are heavy hitters!
Oh christ, do not start..
That would explain.. Oh man, she's a legend! The real deal!!
He can't mean that Enra? Enra, the smoke spirit?!

Have come here today!!
You should never
Then we'll make a pre-emptive strike!
Get rid of him, and this is all over, right?!
Heh heh.. You two really do amuse me.
Kitetsu! You and me!! Let's go!
What is wrong with you?! You Mental Midget!!
A new name for a new me, you see.
I left that moniker behind when I... reinvented myself.
SNAP!
But like I said, please, don't call me Kitetsu..
Why don't I introduce myself once more...
please stop doing it
What is he doing, what is this
!!

I HAVE BECOME THE BEAST WAR-RIOR,
MUGEN THE UN-BOUND !!!

W..
Wuh...
We.
Are.
BONED!!!

I have no idea what's going on here
They haven't said a word since yesterday..
Well, this is akward.
Peek
Sir?
To name Kurogane.
I don't think it was wrong of me

It was against my wishes, and has forced our hand.
But that was what allowed you to preserve Kurogane, so it matters little in the end.
……
タン…
YAIIG!
ぴやあああ
ふぁ
ふぁ

NRG!
HURK
ずべべ

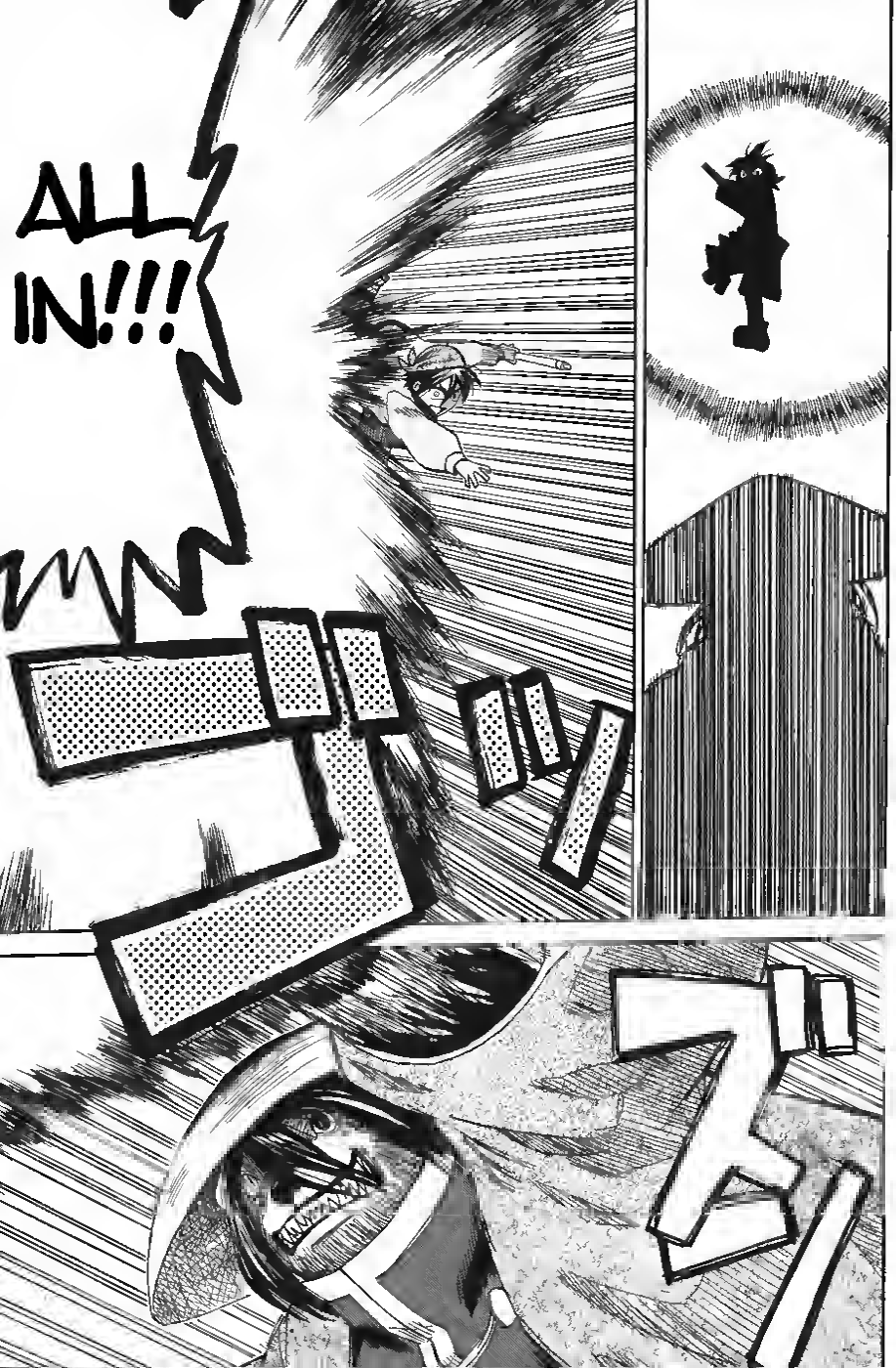
Three seals and your spirit mallet.. and he barely lifted a finger...
Damn!

Hmph.

Now!!
I have to end this

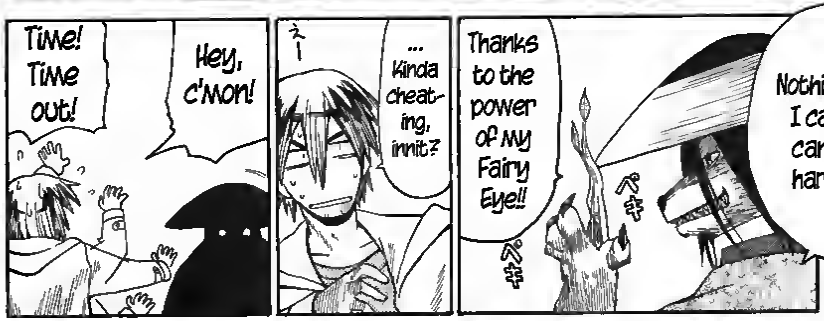
And if I hesi-tate... I'll lose!
If I have to wait, I'll hesitate next time!

If we re-treat now...
We have to beat him now that we're here!

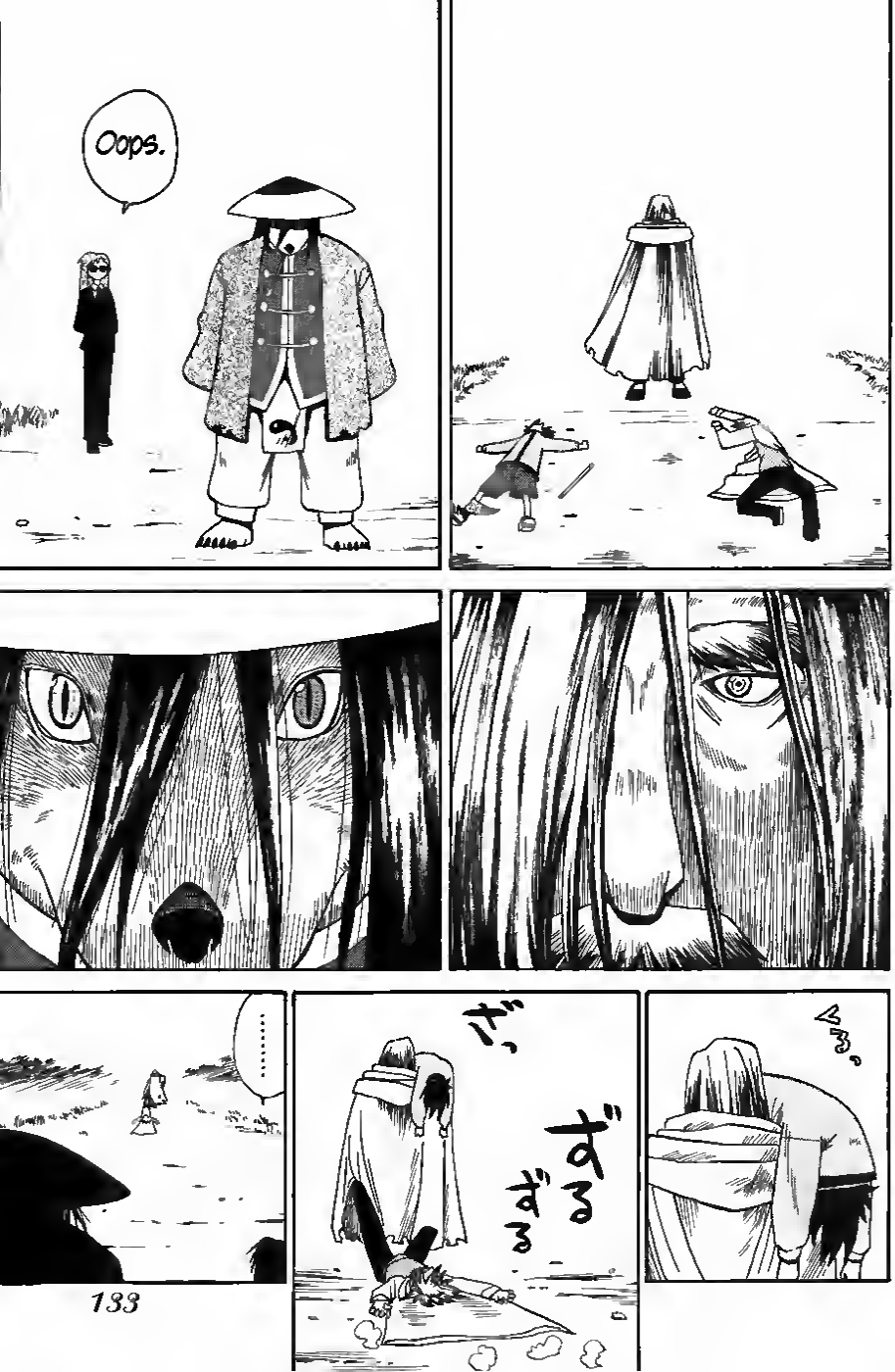

ALL IN!!!

HRAR
!!!
POOOW
!

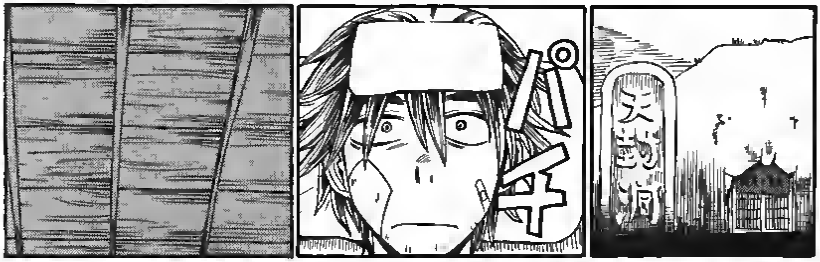
I GOTCHA NOW!!
TOO BAD, FUC-KER!
KRA-
BAM!!
-KOOM
SMIRK
LEER

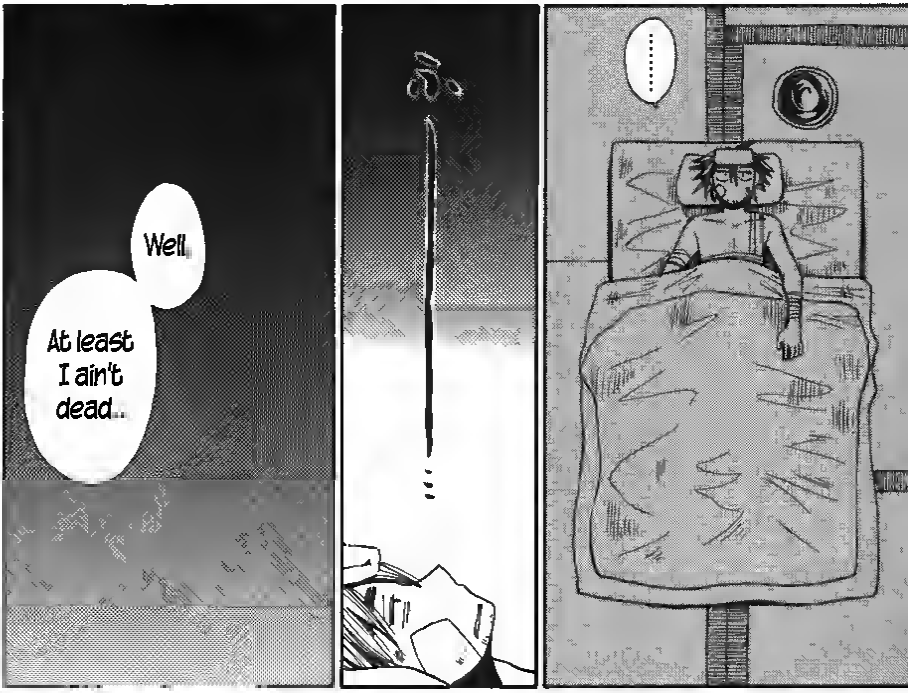

Time! Time out!
Hey, c'MON!
ニー
... Kinda cheating, innit?
Thanks to the power of my Fairy Eye!!
ペキ
ペキ
Nothing that I can see can truly harm me,

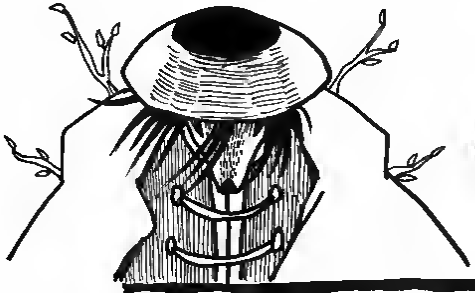
ド
Time..
Ouch!!


Oops.
ふぅ。
ずるずる
だ、
.....

Is that okay?
.....
For now.


パキ
天国


.....
Well..
At least I ain't dead..



MUGEN THE UNBOUND
(AKA KITETSU)

Can muster the spiritual energy of a million men. In other words, he's one tough customer. Looks kind of like a dog but his sense of smell isn't much better than normal people. Has a weak spot for sweets.

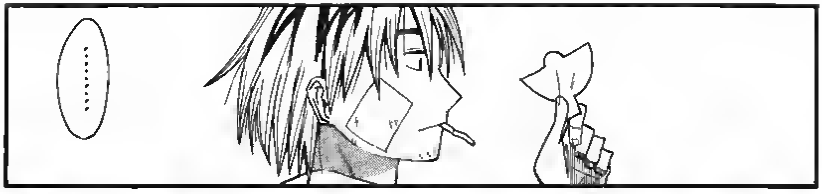
散人の左道

さんじんさとう

Chapter 18
The Man of the Midnight Path, Part 1

Drink this. It'll help.
Oh,
Thanks.
What are you, anyway? Guy? Girl?
.....
What're you on about? I don't have a gender.

When we fight a monster like that and escape with our lives,
And for me,
I'm a man.
Me,
Hm.
Even if we got spanked,
It makes us think, "I ain't done yet."
But, hell..
Let's say it's just this once.
Maybe not.
The Mister Cool facade doesn't suit you at all, you know.
Does it now?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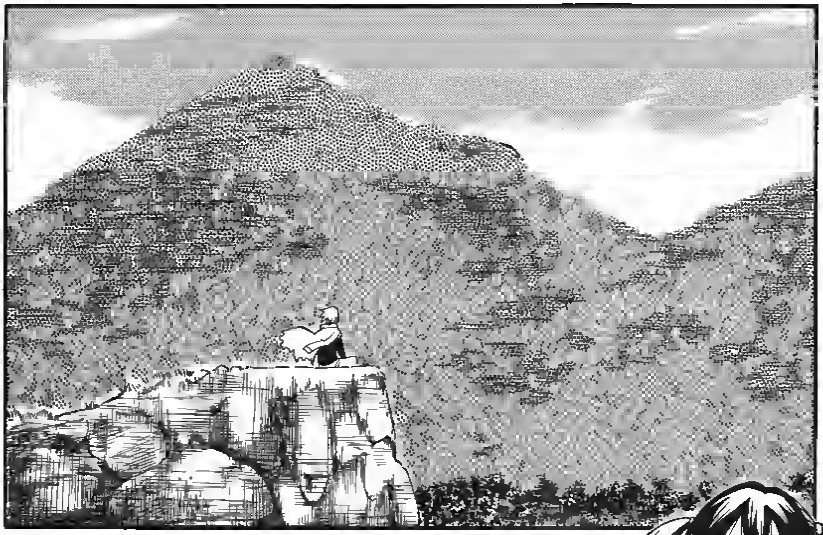
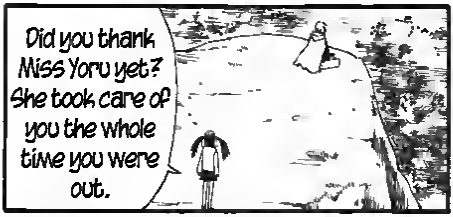


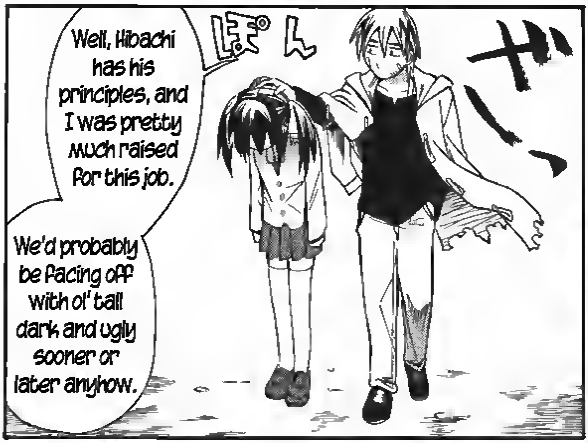

Did you thank Miss Yoru yet? She took care of you the whole time you were out.

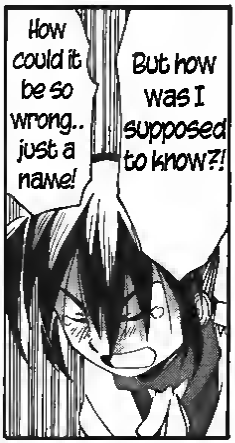
Just apolo-gize.
It's your fault she was mad, isn't it?
Ehh.. Things are a little frosty with us still.

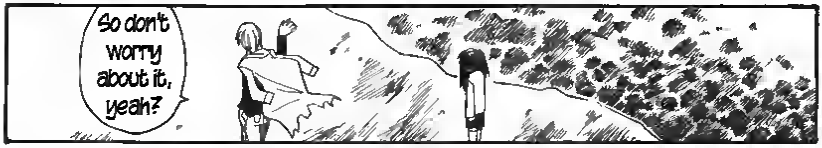
So you're up.

Just thought I'd say I hate you
Oh, nothing.
What do you want?
I don't recall asking you.
Just one thing.
Hey,
What.
... Maybe I will.
Now go bother Hibachi or something.
How sweet of you to say so.
Not another pissy kid..
shoo
Thanks for taking care of Kurogane for us
Why are you thanking me...
.....

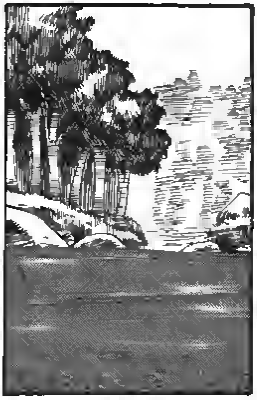
You both got hurt bad because of it..
I messed up Mister Houtetsu's plan to keep everyone safe, and you and Hibachi..
He's not a part of you anymore, but now anyone can access all his spirit power..
They told me all about it.. How because I gave him a name, he manifested individuality

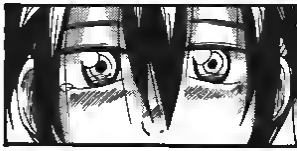

Well, Hibachi has his principles, and I was pretty much raised for this job.
We'd probably be facing off with ol' tall dark and ugly sooner or later anyhow.
ピーン
ガシ


But how was I supposed to know?!
How could it be so wrong.. just a name!


So don't worry about it, yeah?

!



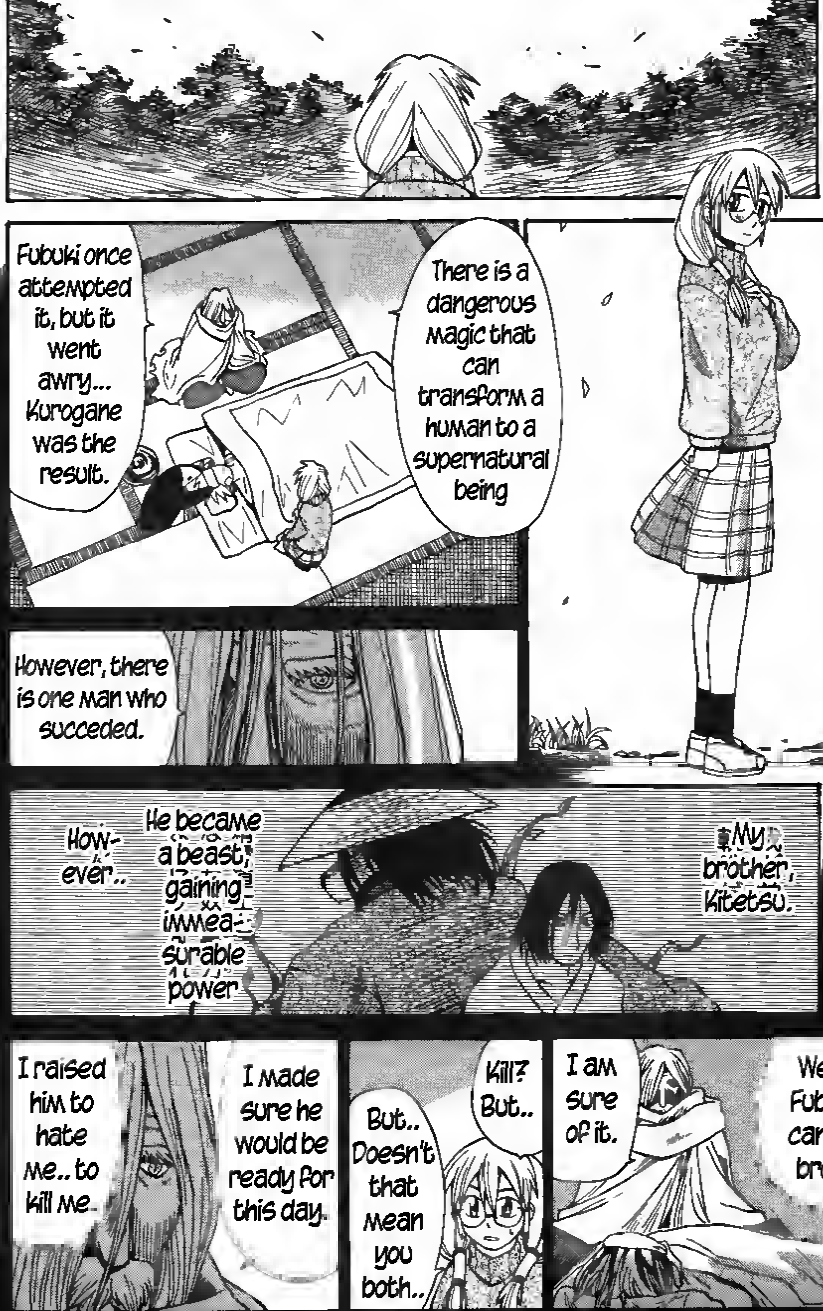


.....

.. You're gonna go, huh.. To fight that guy?
Yoru.
The old man filled you in?
You should get it, then.
So.. Why?
I know you enough.. and this isn't like you.
I don't get it.
This is how it ends.
I'll never be free until I finish what was started for me.
I'm.. not sure I understand, Master.
Whatever it is.. it's time I went and found out for myself.
Because it's not a problem with a solution.
You can't fight fate, or try to make it happen.
The point is I have to confront it.
Maybe.
With a sword fight?

That's right, isn't it.
No need to stand on airs then.
.....
That's the monkey now.
You can lay off the "master" stuff.
!?
Well, let me just tell you one thing!

N-now you're mine, got it?!
There!
Are we clear?!
Do that, and maybe I'll forgive you for ditching me!
……
And I say you come back alive!
ぼーぜん
But you don't get to die unless I say so!
So you can go on off,
She's some woman..
How about that.
hoo boy..
Now, beat it!!
Good!
Uh, Yes'm
Oh!
WELL?!

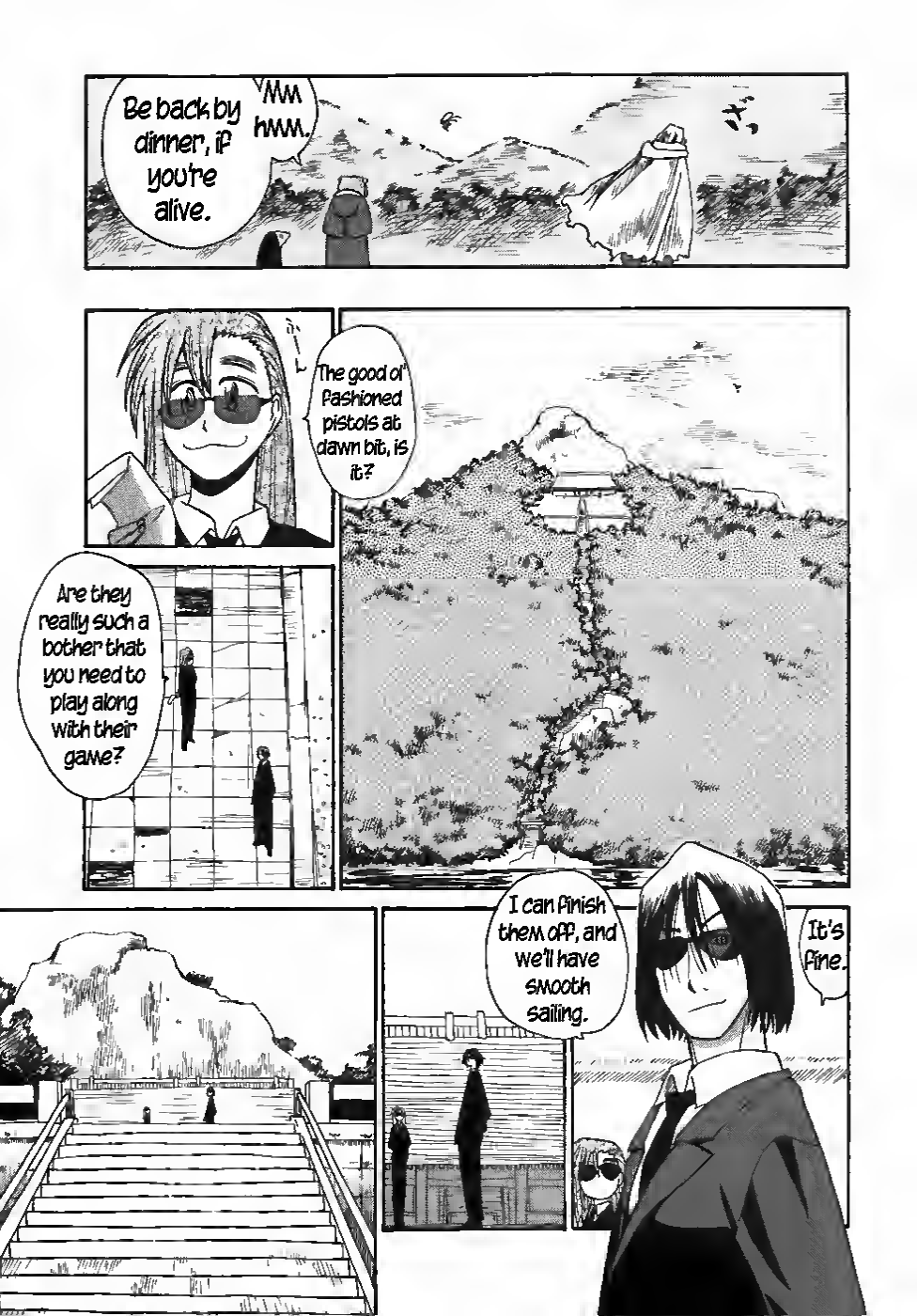

Fubuki once attempted it, but it went awry... Kurogane was the result.
There is a dangerous magic that can transform a human to a supernatural being
However, there is one man who succeded.
My brother, Kitetsu.
However..
He became a beast, gaining immeasurable power
I raised him to hate me.. to kill me.
I made sure he would be ready for this day.
But.. Doesn't that mean you both..
Kill? But..
I am sure of it.
We have Fubuki. He can kill my brother.

Fubuki is my last, best work

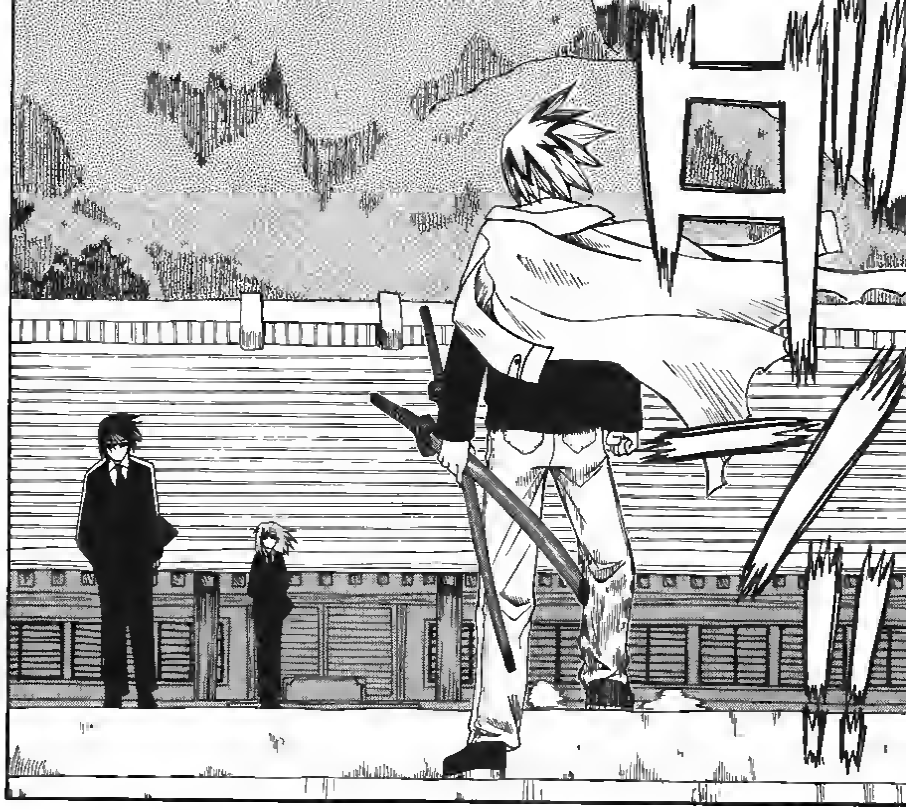
You have to know you're in rough shape, though.
Yeah.. I'm pretty messed up, and my energy's out of whack.
But I still have one good shot in me.
Blowing all your juice going balls out isn't gonna do you any favors, y'know.
Oh yeah?
You gonna try and stop me?
Like hell!!
But you follow my lead, and you get one shot and that's it.
You'll be useless after that so roll over and take a nap out of the way.
Heh.
Suits me!!
One's all I'll need.
So, here's the plan...
Wait, you know where he is?
Oh, he'll be waiting. I sent him a familiar with a nasty letter.
You think of everything..

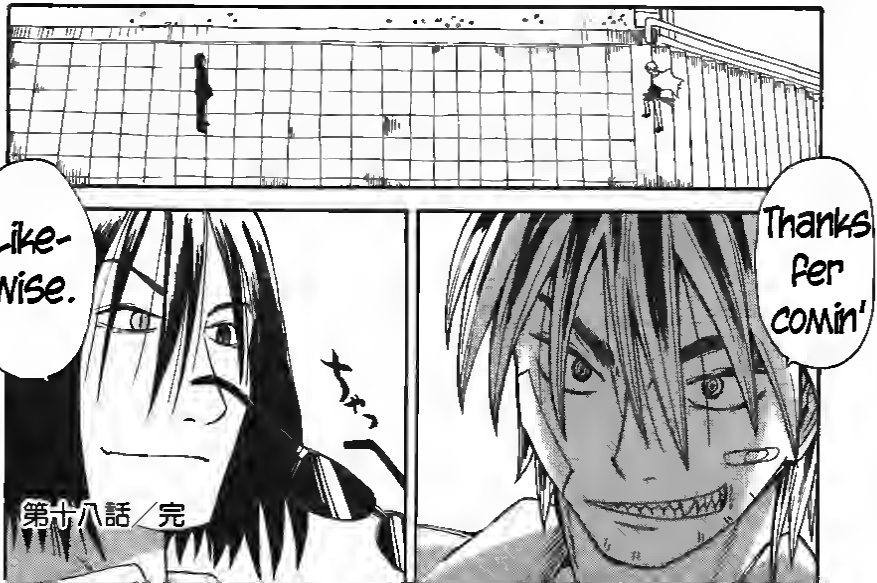
Hi.
Irori?!
Yee!
Kurogane's settled down, so they took off the seal.
I'm gonna follow them.
Want to come with? Lend some moral support?
So skinny..
Hang on tight.
Or would you rather sit and stew here?

Eep.
EEEEEK
That's some distance.
It's about time I took my leave as well..
...indeed
white drawers on both


Be back by dinner, if you're alive.
Mm hmm.
The good ol' fashioned pistols at dawn bit, is it?
Are they really such a bother that you need to play along with their game?
I can finish them off, and we'll have smooth sailing.
It's fine.

Oh, I'm sure.
By the time he catches on, it'll be far too late.
IT'S DO OR DIE TIME !!!
Are you sure about this? That's not much of a plan.



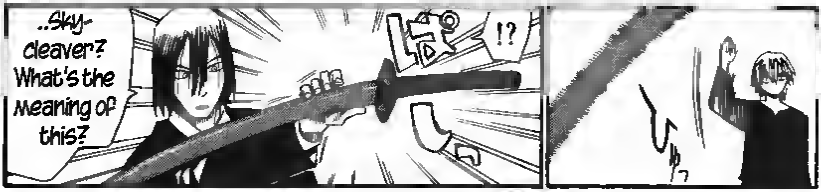


第十八話／完

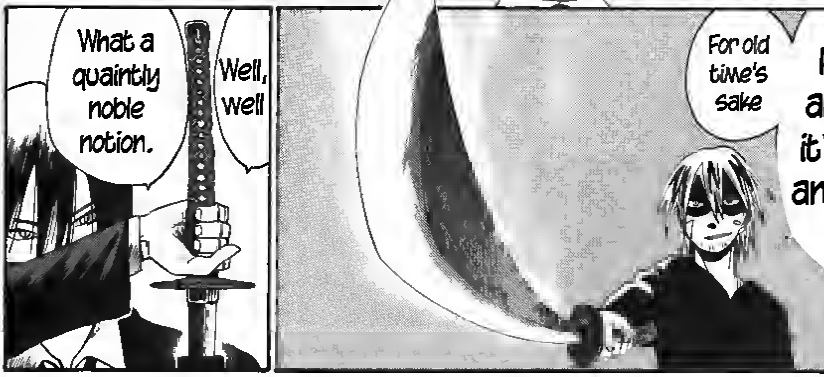
第十九話

Where's the boy?
You're alone?
How foolish.. He should have known his limits.
He's in no shape to fight, after the beating you gave him.
Hey, it's not like that's a lie..
Like you need to tell me.. I already know I screwed up once, but I'm not the brains of this operation
How fortunate.. For him, at least. He'll live to see another day.
This time, you've got more to worry about

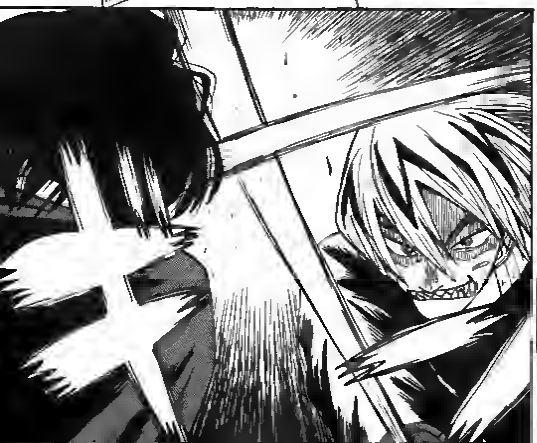
I'll follow your lead, Sadou! Don't let me down!!
I don't like it, but...
This time, he's running the show


..Sky-cleaver? What's the meaning of this?
!?

That one was yours, I hear, and the old man favored Riverblade here.
Just some dusty old toys I took out of mothballs.


What a quaintly noble notion.
Well, well
For old time's sake
How about it? You and me.

Chapter 19: The Man of the Midnight Path, Part 2



!
!
I can deal with you, and take Irori at the same time.
It's my lucky day.
Fu-buki!!

FWOOSH
YOU-!
Urg!
He's right about that...
And Enra could butt in at any time... I'd better make a move, quick!
Give up already.
I tire of this already. We're just repeating the same steps.
Too much power! Just a little flare up and I'm peeling it!
Dawn!

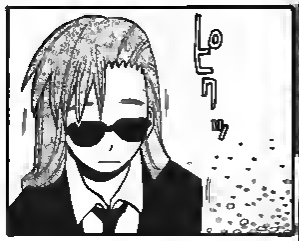
The signal...!
!?
FWSSH...
To protect those two!!
We have to do some-thing
TID
TID

110%
BURNING
STAR
!!!
ROOOAAARR
!!!

HN RR ?!
What power!!

Hibachi!!

Like I said, where's the spot?!
If he's attacked without being able to see it with his fairy eye, he can't heal instantly. A pincer attack should expose his weak spot.
Which is?
He's strong, too strong for either of us to tackle head-on, and to do any damage that lasts we have to exploit his one vulnerability.



He doesn't have eyes in the back of his head!!

So that's where we get him!!

!!
Aww, too bad
A mirror!!
!!
HHN
ARR
Um..!

NO-!!
!
!!
Get down!!

No..
Irori.. I've wasted my chance.. What have I done...

!!
HA!
!
FAP!!
GRAR
CH-OOOM

HAH
AHA
HAH
AHA
HA
!!!
Wha
z!

HOW DARE YOU!! DIE, WHELP!
ROUND TWO, MUTT-SKI!!
LOOK WHO'S BACK IN BLACK, BABY!!
RRRRAAAAA!!!!

第十九話／完

ドドド

Chapter 20: The Man of the Midnight Path, Part 3

Besides, you haven't won yet.
Don't thank me, this is for Irori.
Thanks for the leg up, Kuro-gane!
This is just the ticket!
Hee-hee.. not yet.
And we're operating on a time limit!
He's still just as old and experienced as Houtetsu!
The gulf between you two is wide enough given his fairy eye, but that's just scratching the surface
He's still got us beat in every way
There's no way he can win!!
Considering our strength, skill, and stamina..
Your body will only be able to handle my full power for a few minutes

Are.. are you sure?
Yes.
I don't know what he's trying to do,
But he won't win this.
I'm not sure.. but I think..
That it's going to be okay.
Uh.. Irori?
Hiba-chi! Are you ok?!
ugh..
Kurogane...
I can see it.
Good luck!!

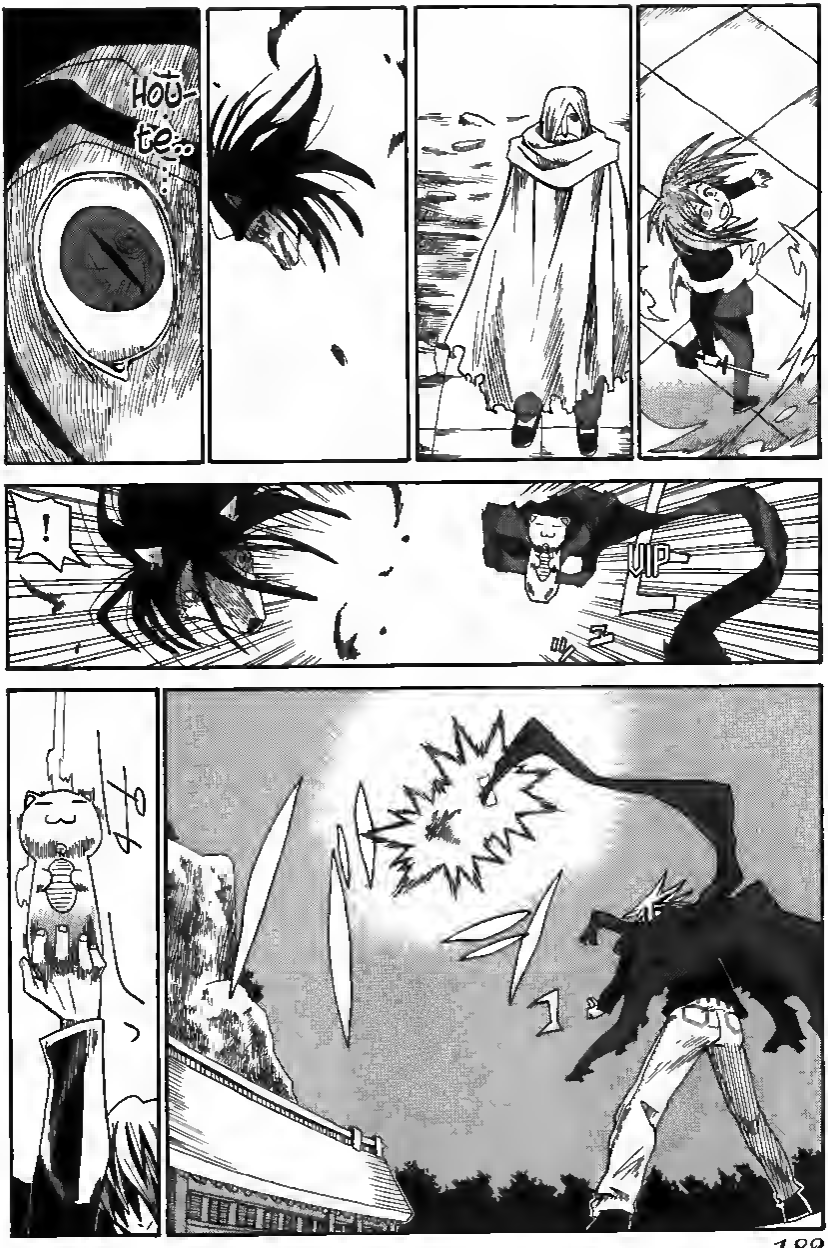
He's going to win!!
あいつ勝ちます!!
Gah.
Hrr!!
I've only just begun!
はぁ はぁ

And we still haven't even hurt him!
!?
HMM!
!!
Good work, Kurogane. I needed this time.
What's happening?
Looks like he's finally feeling it...
The cut healed, but all I wanted to do was get Riverblade inside you.
I got a pretty deep cut off when you had your back turned
What... did you.. I can't move!!
She had a little present we just had to give you..

I slipped you a Mickey, chump!
にー
がー
Lucky for us you swallowed that honorable duel bullshit hook line and sinker.
Guh.. You-!
I'm surprised it took you this long to feel it. this was nasty stuff.
Did you actually expect me to play fair?
Don't look so shocked.
This was their real plan all along?!
Not good...!
There you go.
Oh ho!
Should've know he'd have a trick..
He used poison?!
.....

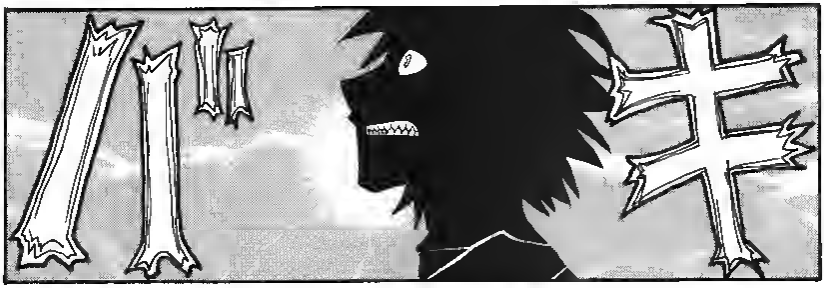
I see by the light of the moon.
I take the road less traveled.
I am Sadou Koku-getsu Shin-kun!!
And I'm gonna learn ya to play dead, dog.

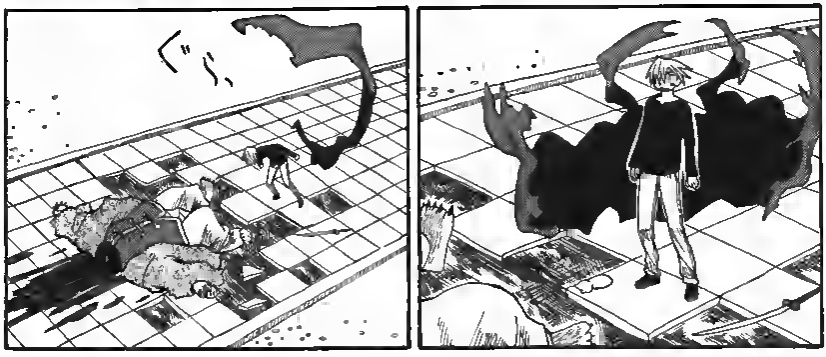
For-give me, Rin.
So. It ends here.
YE EE AA AA HH
I won't let you kill him!!

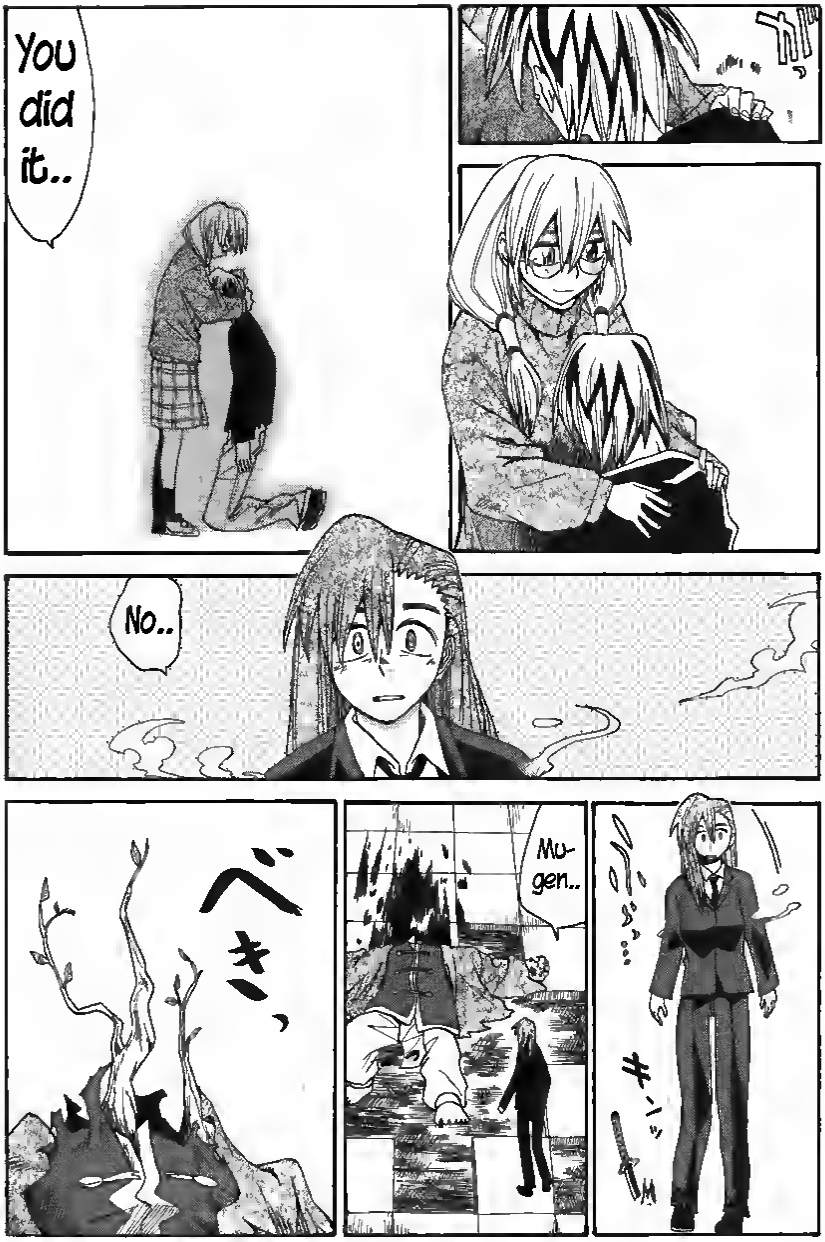

HOU-
te...
!
VIP
ナイっ

Aaand, sealed.
And neither are you.
I'm not even dead,
So that means you're safe,
Basically, I fixed everything.
HELL FUC-KING YES!!
BIG FUC-KIN WIN-NER!!

Time's up
YEEEEEAAAAAAA






You did it..
No..
Mu-gen..

メキメキメキメキ

MONSTROUS MANTLE

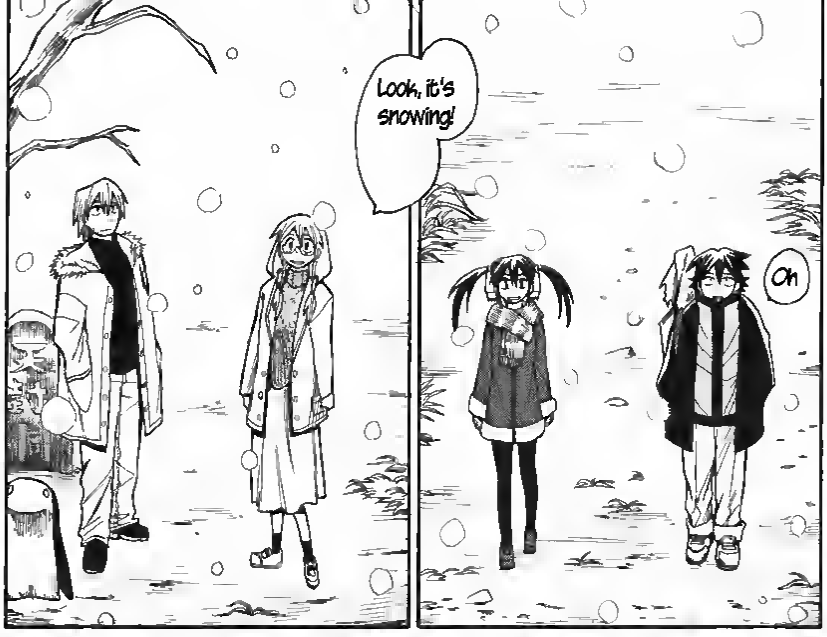
Becomes nasty enough to blow smoke in your face, but still considerate enough to use an ashtray. Can only sustain the transformation for 3 minutes, but doesn't carry a timer, so just goes nuts until he runs out of juice. Has some deep-seated issues.

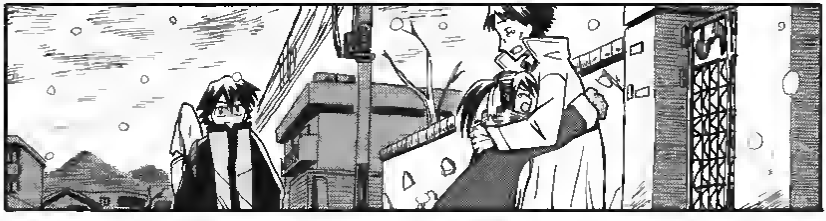
散人左道

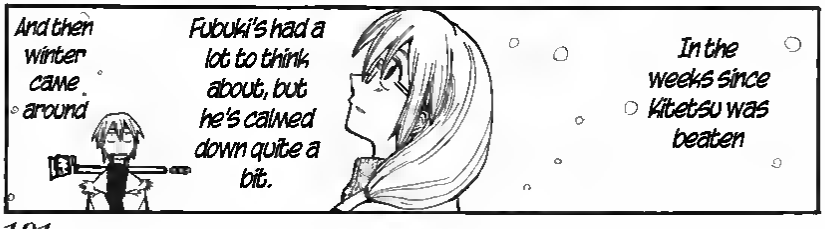
さんじんさとう

I'll be going too. The spell on my dad should be wearing off.
Thanks for having me, but it's time I headed home.
Kid your age'll heal up quick, but take it easy till then. Tell Ishikawa I said hi.
Take care, you two.
And Kurogane?
What.
Give it up already..
I'll be back then, To beat you for good.
Yeah.

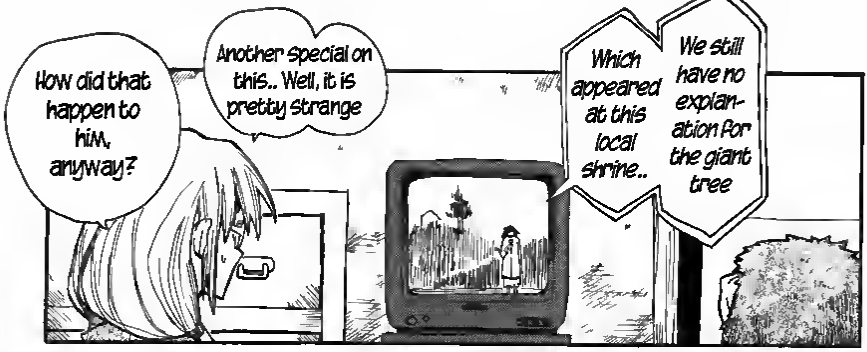
Now that I've had the chance just to look you in the eyes, so to speak,
That's good enough for me.
I figured out what to do with you.
I don't need to beat you or to take you back to get over you.
The choice is yours, but you'll have to decide.
Either challenge and overcome it, or accept it and reclaim it
So, what do you say? Friends?
We'll see you again.
He might get used to the idea.
.....
.....
Hmf.

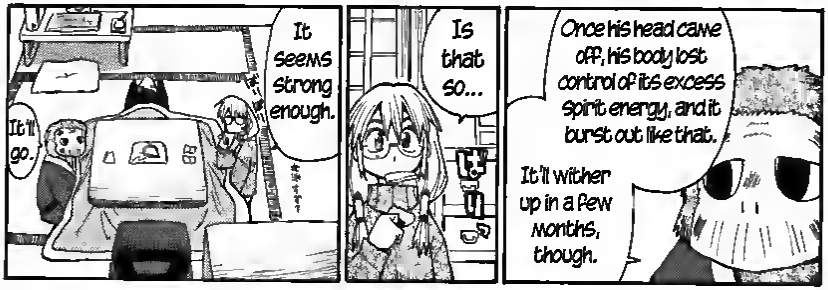

Look, it's snowing!
Oh




And then winter came around.
Fubuki's had a lot to think about, but he's calmed down quite a bit.
In the weeks since Kitetsu was beaten

Epilogue


How did that happen to him, anyway?
Another special on this.. Well, it is pretty strange
Which appeared at this local shrine..
We still have no explanation for the giant tree

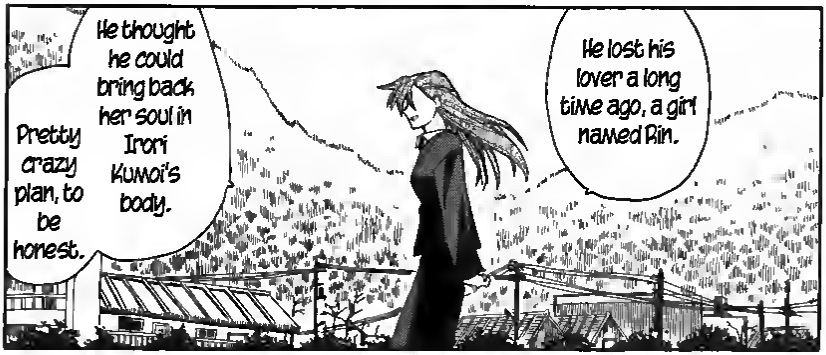

It'll go.
It seems strong enough.
Is that so...
Once his head came off, his body lost control of its excess spirit energy, and it burst out like that.
It'll wither up in a few months, though.

He fell, as is the nature of things, as the world righted itself.
And the tighter your grasp, the more slips through your fingers.
Too much power causes an imbalance in the world,

Yeah, down to the book store.
Are you going out?
I'll come with you.
Then again, maybe not.
I.. think I get it.

What do you think Kitetsu wanted to accomplish with Irori, anyway?
I'unno.
Well.. doesn't it bug you, at least?
.....
He went to such lengths for it, whatever it was..
Yeah, it does, I guess.
But it doesn't really matter now.
Want me to tell you?
?!

He was going to raise the dead.
En-raz!
yee!

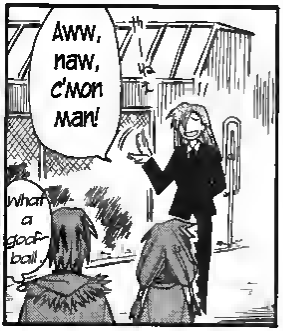

He thought he could bring back her soul in Irori Kumoi's body.
Pretty crazy plan, to be honest.
He lost his lover a long time ago, a girl named Rin.

I always feel more at home with guys who smoke, y'know?
Huh?

Maybe you'd like a friendly ghost of your very own?
I was just thinking..

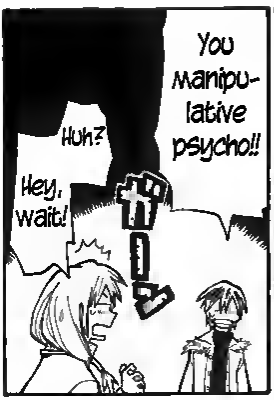
So.. what now?
Here for revenge?

This one's mine! Back off, sister!
No way!
ガシッ


Aww, naw, C'mon man!
What a goof-ball.

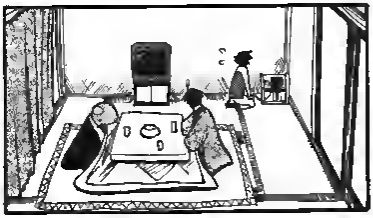
Nah, not this time..
He'd remind me too much of his brother..
The old man has his pipe, maybe you could..
.....
Really? Too bad.
Oh well.. Plenty of fish in the sea.
So long.
Wait!
So..
Were you and Mister Kitetsu.. er..
Oh.. but he was gonna bring his lover back..
Did.. UM...
... Funny thing, love..

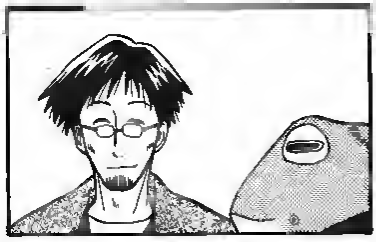
You hear from your sister?
She's learning to surpress her spiritual wavelength, I can probably see her soon.
I'm no good at it, of course
Is that the problem? Heck, I could teach you that much.
Huh?
Yeah, I'm going out on the road again when spring comes around.
Wanna come along?
... I don't think so.


You manipu-lative psycho!!
Huh?
Hey, wait!

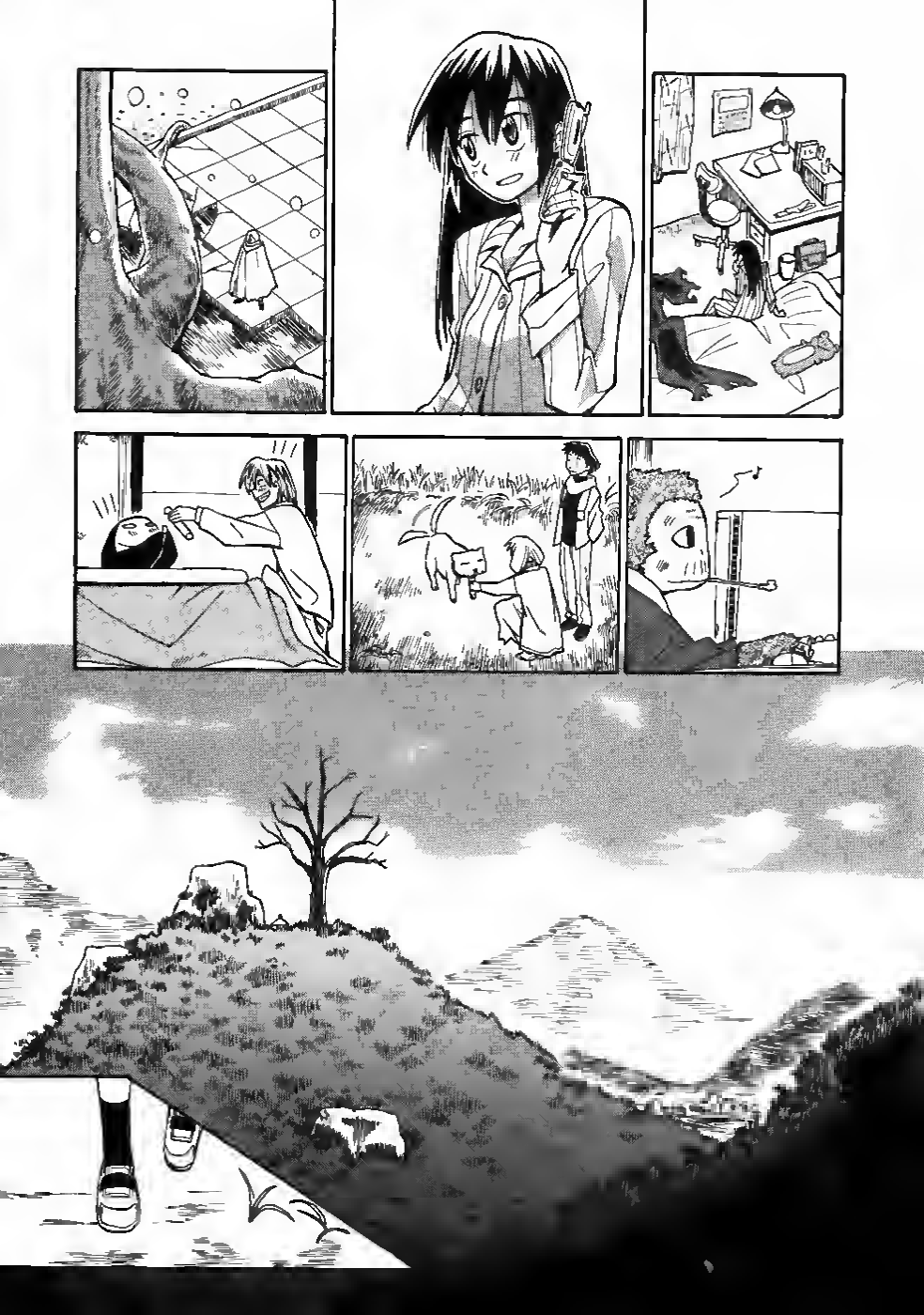
What're you busting me for?
Wh-?!

But if you ask me nicely I might consider it!!





'Sides.. Course I want you to come..
Arr..
I can't hear you. Eye contact!
Are you blush-ing? C'mon, say it!



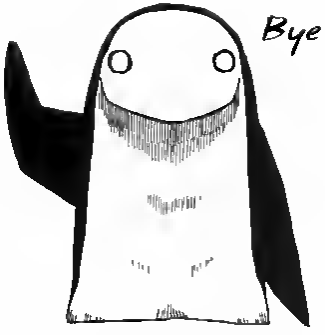
You had every reason to kill me.
Surely you must still hate me.
!
Yeah, I do.
But screw it, I had to let the past go eventually.
Sorry to foil your plans, but I think my way was better anyhow.

Fu-buki.
You've grown so much,
Thanks for every-thing,

Mas-
ter!!

In the spring, the time of new life,
The great tree died
It dried and blew away, as if it had never been

There's always hope in the world... Or something.
But you know, the spring buds always make me think,
最終話／完



SANJIN SADOU

Fin

10 Years Later

(bonus page)

Hibachi and Irori

A famed exorcist couple, operating under the pseudonyms "Hammer of Light" and "Dark Maiden". When Kurogane's personality takes over, only Hibachi can calm her down, so ghosts and monsters are almost relieved to see them together. Those who knew Hibachi from long ago, however, are even more disturbed by his peaceful demeanor.

Fubuki and Yoru

Married with twins, a boy and a girl. No sign of the Fairy Eye. The kids are very attached to Pengy. Fubuki is a novelist, and Yoru writes manga while watching the kids, but most of the household income comes from Soon Ken playing the stock market and Pengy's homebrew.

Retired as far as spiritualist activities go, except for special occasions. Considering passing the title of Midnight Backroad Master to Yoru's sister.

AFTERWORD

Here we are, 21 chapters, one year, and nine months later, and I'm grateful for it every day.

連載中は学ぶべきものが沢山あり，後悔したり反省したり悩んだりヘコんでいました。

I learned a lot while I was working on this, and while it may have been challenging, I can appreciate all the ways I've grown because of it.

永上悟志の初連載作「散人左道」はこれにて完結となります。

There's probably a few plot points that got dropped, and some things that aren't explained in much depth, but that's the way it is. Sanjin Sadou, everybody. Hope you liked it, though, seriously.

私はそのわずかなひと時のために漫画を描きます。

It may not have lasted long, but I hope you can enjoy your time living in the little world I've imagined. I created it with that in mind, after enjoying so many stories in my own life as a manga reader.

沢山勉強したり，バリバリ働いたり，それぞれの「生きること」をがんばりましょう。

Alas, stories have an end, and we must return to our world eventually. I hope you will all continue to do your very best, whether working, studying, or just living. Should the time come when you've had enough of your world, I hope you'll consider a brief vacation in mine once again to refresh yourself. I create manga for just that reason, and I hope I can continue to do so, for my sake and yours.

続いてお詫びとお礼の言葉

And now, some words of thanks.

短期集中連載で始まったのに，異常の連載のトリに抜擢されました。

Despite the short length of my series, thank you to the magazine staff who valued my time and contributions as much as a real series. Sorry about all the begging I did for more pages.

ありがとうございました，アクにもにしてごめんなさい。

Thank you for all the wonderful and constructive feedback I recieved while workshopping my drafts with the editorial staff. Sorry for all the times I didn't really know what I was talking about, or had trouble articulating my side of things.

理屈こねてすいません。

Thanks to the design department who helped me come up with a cool logo to match my title and series. Thanks to O-Sensei and S-sensei for their advice and guidance in many ways. Thanks to Hochi-Kun for helping with the tones in chapter nine, and I-Kun and R-Kun who I drew as monsters in chapter fifteen. I could go on all day, but I'd better not. To everyone, thank you so much.

本当に，本当にありがとうございました。

Last but not least, thanks to you. Yes you, the one reading right now. I mean it, I really really mean it. Thanks for reading.

がんばってください。

よろしくお願いいたします。

Like I said, I could be here all day, but it's time to bid a fond farewell. I hope for the chance to address you all again.

Mizukami Satoshi

●コミック441●

【ＹＫコミックス】

散人左道（さんじんさどう）②

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